

1 WHEREAS, while Louisiana law currently provides a way by which an incarcerated
2 parent of children who are in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services
3 can work with the department to develop a plan for the appropriate care of those children,
4 there is currently no similar mechanism for parents who are awaiting a criminal trial or
5 sentencing or for children who are not currently in the custody of the department.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 authorize and direct the Department of Children and Family Services to study and develop
8 a procedure by which parents who are awaiting a criminal trial or sentencing can work with
9 the department to access all necessary information, materials, and resources to develop a
10 reasonable plan of appropriate care for their child, regardless of whether the child is
11 currently in the custody of the department.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
13 shall also study and develop a plan to address any barriers or complications that arise for
14 inmates who, under current law, are required to provide a reasonable plan for the appropriate
15 care of his child.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
17 shall also consider the following in conducting its study:

18 (1) Procedural issues encountered by parents in submitting a plan of care for the
19 child.

20 (2) Resources available through community alliances in major geographic areas to
21 help parents develop and complete a plan of care for the child.

22 (3) Possible accommodations that may be available, but not currently authorized by
23 law, that could be provided to parents in an effort to support them in completing and
24 submitting a plan of care for the child.

25 (4) The anticipated impact of extending current services, including any changes
26 considered in the study required by this Resolution, to parents who are not currently afforded
27 these services under current law.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Children and
29 Family Services, or her designee appointed from within the department, shall lead the study
30 with the assistance and input of the following stakeholders who shall work in conjunction

1 with the Department of Children and Family Services to study and develop the plan as
2 provided by this Resolution:

3 (1) The governor or his designee.

4 (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or her designee.

5 (3) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
6 designee.

7 (4) The president of the Louisiana District Judges Association or his designee.

8 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association or his designee.

9 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his
10 designee.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
12 report its findings and any recommendations to the legislature, including recommendations
13 for legislative action, on or before February 1, 2018, and that the department provide any
14 necessary staff support needed to ensure timely compliance with the reporting requirements
15 of this Resolution.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
17 to the Department of Children and Family Services, the governor's office, the Louisiana
18 Department of Health, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana
19 District Judges Association, the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, and the Louisiana District
20 Attorneys Association.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Abraham

Directs the Dept. of Children and Family Services to study and develop a procedure by which parents who are awaiting a criminal trial or sentencing can work with the department to access all necessary information, materials, and resources to develop a reasonable plan of appropriate care for their child, regardless of whether the child is currently in the custody of the department.

Requires the department to report its findings to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2018.