

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To request the Division of Administration's Office of Technology Services to convene a working group that includes every state agency with responsibility for child safety, welfare, and protection and to report quarterly to the legislature on the activities, findings, and results of the working group.

WHEREAS, it is critical that the agencies with responsibility for child safety, welfare, and protection utilize technology that is capable of tracking reports of instances and occurrences that document child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Technology Services (OTS) was established in 2014, when independent state agency IT divisions were consolidated into a centralized and streamlined IT service entity across all state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the mission of OTS is to increase the return on the state's investment in technology by promoting smart decision-making; solving problems intelligently; increasing the rate of project success; and fostering a skilled and professional workforce; and

WHEREAS, OTS' operations budget is appropriated solely as interagency transfer from state agencies or self-generated funds; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2014, the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Education, office of juvenile justice, and the Louisiana Department of Health all had separate IT divisions which could not share information cross-agency; and

WHEREAS, more than ten years after the creation of OTS, it has become apparent that the state agencies responsible for child safety, welfare, and protection are not maximizing the opportunity OTS presents to establish and coordinate information technology systems and information technology services; and

WHEREAS, OTS exists to assist state agencies with their technological needs, but they are only able to be truly effective if they have the requests and information needed to establish and improve cross-agency data sharing; and

WHEREAS, better communication and discussion of agency needs and responsibilities with OTS could mean the difference between life and death for the children of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Division of Administration's Office of Technology Services to convene a working group that includes every state agency with responsibility for child safety, welfare, and protection and to report quarterly to the legislature on the activities, findings, and results of the working group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief information officer of the Division of Administration's Office Technology Services.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE