

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 132

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of juvenile justice to provide specific information in a report to the Senate committees on Finance and Judiciary B relative to complaints, investigations, and litigation at secure and non-secure care facilities under jurisdiction of the office of juvenile justice, youth services.

WHEREAS, state law mandates that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice, have full control of all juvenile institutions, facilities, and programs under its administration and the affairs of such institutions, facilities, and programs and shall adopt all rules and regulations which it deems essential to the proper conduct of these institutions, facilities, and programs; and

WHEREAS, state law also mandates that the office of juvenile justice shall have responsibility for the care, custody, security, and treatment of children adjudicated delinquent and children of families adjudicated in need of services committed to the custody of or placed under the supervision of the office of juvenile justice or of youth services pursuant to the Children's Code; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the office of juvenile justice is to protect the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the office of juvenile justice is to provide a quality system of care which embraces partnerships with families, communities, and stakeholders to assist youth in redirecting their lives toward responsible citizenship; and

WHEREAS, according to the office of juvenile justice, secure care, the deep end of the juvenile justice system, is reserved for those youth deemed to be a risk to public safety and/or not amenable to treatment in a less restrictive setting who are monitored constantly under direct supervision of staff, and are not allowed to come and go freely; and

WHEREAS, residential providers, according to the office of juvenile justice, are

responsible for the day-to-day operation of residential/group homes, shelter care, transitional living programs, and foster care; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, there have been several high profile cases involving the office of juvenile justice, including the decision to house juveniles at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola and lawsuits regarding the conditions at the WARE Youth Center; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 15:933 mandates, in part, the office of juvenile justice must publish reports to include but not be limited to "the total cost of operating each office of juvenile justice secure facility, disaggregated by facility, in the preceding year, with the following costs disaggregated: cost of facilities, cost of staffing, cost of mental health treatment, and cost of educational services"; and

WHEREAS, Children's Code Art. 412 states in part that "non-identifying information of general nature, including statistics, is not confidential and may be released without a court order"; and

WHEREAS, for the safety and well-being of juveniles housed in secure and non-secure facilities, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana seeks to review and analyze all complaints, investigations, and litigation at each secure and non-secure facility under the office of juvenile justice, youth services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of juvenile justice to provide specific information relative to complaints, investigations, and litigation at secure and non-secure care facilities under the jurisdiction of the office of juvenile justice, youth services, by written report to the Senate committees on Finance and Judiciary B no later than February 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall address all of the following between 2020 and 2025 and shall be itemized by year:

(1) (Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

(2) (Acadiana Center for Youth in St. Martinville) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

(3) (Bridge City Center for Youth in Jefferson Parish) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were

settled.

(4) (Swanson Center for Youth in Columbia) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

(5) (Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

(6) (WARE Youth Center in Coushatta) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

(7) (WARE Youth Center in Bossier) The total number of complaints, itemized accordingly, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

(8) (Residential Providers) The total number of complaints, itemize by each provider, that has been reported by the juvenile, a family member of the juvenile, or a third party.

(a) The total number of reported complaints relative to an assault and battery (simple and aggravated).

(b) The total number of reported complaints relative to sexual battery.

(c) The total number of reported complaints relative to rape.

(d) The total number of investigations that were conducted due to the reported complaints, with the status and outcome of each investigation.

(e) How many state and federal lawsuits have been filed as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the status of each case, and the name and case number of all suits that were settled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon submission of the report, the Senate committees on Finance and Judiciary B may hold separate public hearings to review the report and exercise oversight of the office of juvenile justice, youth services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report requested by this Resolution shall be submitted annually by February first beginning in 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the deputy secretary of the office of juvenile justice.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE