2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

CHILDREN/WELFARE SVCS: Requests a study and recommendations concerning reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study the issue of
3	reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families, and to recommend to the
4	legislature policies for improving coordination between the department and the
5	United States Department of Defense in matters relating to child welfare.
6	WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services, referred to hereafter
7	as "DCFS", works to meet the needs of this state's most vulnerable children by carrying out
8	vital child protection functions; and
9	WHEREAS, these functions include investigations by the DCFS child welfare
10	division of reports of child abuse and neglect; and
11	WHEREAS, current data indicate that approximately seventy percent of active duty
12	military families reside in the civilian community; and
13	WHEREAS, the secretary of the United States Department of Defense is required by
14	law, 10 U.S.C. 1787, to coordinate with civilian child welfare services for the purpose of
15	obtaining information concerning allegations of child abuse and neglect involving children
16	in military families; and
17	WHEREAS, the Department of Defense depends upon collaboration with state
18	agencies such as DCFS to fulfill this obligation to address child abuse and neglect; and
19	WHEREAS, the Family Advocacy Program of the Department of Defense requires
20	the military services to establish agreements with state and local child welfare services to
21	collaborate on the oversight of cases involving military families; and

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1 WHEREAS, changes in state laws, regulations, and policies could facilitate 2 development of more consistent agreements and better coordination of state child welfare 3 functions and military protective and rehabilitative services, with the overall goal of 4 achieving the most effective partnership between the Department of Defense and the state 5 to best serve military children and families; and

6 WHEREAS, examples of model laws providing for such coordination of child 7 welfare functions are those of the states of South Carolina and Washington, which direct the 8 collection of military affiliation information as part of the child abuse and neglect response 9 process and the sharing of pertinent case information with the appropriate military 10 authorities.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 12 urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study the issue of 13 reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families, and to recommend policies for 14 improving coordination between the department and the United States Department of 15 Defense in matters relating to child welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the study and recommendations requested in this Resolution, the Department of Children and Family Services shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from representatives of the Family Advocacy Program of the Department of Defense, Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, the Child Advocacy Centers and CASA of Louisiana, and any other stakeholder groups with an interest in child abuse prevention as deemed appropriate by the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
shall submit a written report of its recommendations resulting from the study requested in
this Resolution to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on
Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the Senate Judiciary C
Committee on or before February 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy of the United States Department of Defense, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family

- 1 Services, the executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, and the president of
- 2 LouisianaChildren.org.

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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Urges and requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to study the issue of reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families and to recommend policies for improving coordination between the department and the U.S. Dept. of Defense in matters relating to child welfare.

Requests that DCFS submit a written report of its recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the Senate Judiciary C Committee on or before Feb. 1, 2018.