HLS 20RS-1360 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

JUVENILES: Requests the office of juvenile justice to study the impacts of COVID-19 on its operations

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the office of juvenile justice of the Department of Public Safety and 3 Corrections to study the impact of COVID-19 on its operations, specifically as it 4 pertains to the safety and security of juveniles and staff at its facilities, as well as the 5 feasibility of releasing low-risk, nonviolent juvenile detainees and its impact on mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and to report the number of juveniles and staff 6 7 that have died as a result of COVID-19. 8 WHEREAS, according to a letter from the chief justice of the Supreme Court of 9 Louisiana, juveniles in poor health and those with underlying conditions are particularly 10 vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, and juveniles held in facilities are at increased risk of 11 contracting and spreading the virus to others, including staff and their families and 12 communities; and 13 WHEREAS, in the same letter, the chief justice emphasized the importance of 14 minimizing the number of children held in close quarters, including jails, detention centers, 15 and secure care facilities, in order to contain the virus; and 16 WHEREAS, according to information from the office of juvenile justice, in response 17 to the public health crisis related to the spread of COVID-19, the office of juvenile justice 18 established quarantine and isolation guidelines to accommodate any determined exposures 19 within its facilities and is working with its medical provider and the office of public health 20 of the Louisiana Department of Health to determine the most appropriate treatment for 21 juveniles in its facilities who may fall ill; and

1	WHEREAS, in addition to the establishment of these guidelines, the office of
2	juvenile justice limited the number of visitors, contractors, and deliveries on secure care
3	campuses since the onset of the public health crisis and screened each person entering the
4	secure care facilities; and
5	WHEREAS, as of April 9, 2020, there were twenty-one juveniles and eleven
6	employees who tested positive for COVID-19 at office of juvenile justice secure care
7	facilities; and
8	WHEREAS, it is important for the office of juvenile justice to strive for and maintain
9	the safety, security, and well-being of the juveniles and staff in its facilities and to take
0	necessary precautions to mitigate any potential spread of COVID-19.
1	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12	urge and request the office of juvenile justice of the Department of Public Safety and
13	Corrections to study the impact of COVID-19 on its operations, specifically as it pertains to
4	the safety and security of juveniles and staff at its facilities, as well as the feasibility of
15	releasing low-risk, nonviolent juvenile detainees and its impact on mitigating the spread of
16	COVID-19, and to report the number of juveniles and staff that have died as a result of
17	COVID-19.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of juvenile justice shall report its
9	findings to the legislature no later than January 1, 2021.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
21	to the deputy secretary of the office of juvenile justice.

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)]

HCR 47 Original

2020 Regular Session

Jones

Requests the office of juvenile justice of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study the impact of COVID-19 on its operations, specifically as it pertains to the safety and security of juveniles and staff at its facilities, as well as the feasibility of releasing low-risk, nonviolent juvenile detainees and its impact on mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and to report the number of juveniles and staff that have died as a result of COVID-19.

Further requires the office of juvenile justice to report its findings to the legislature no later than Jan. 1, 2021.