HLS 11RS-1103 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2011

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

COURTS: Urges and requests the Louisiana Supreme Court to implement mandatory continuing education for judges

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court to institute mandatory continuing legal
3	education for judges on family law topics, including child custody and the child
4	support guidelines.
5	WHEREAS, the law of child custody was changed in 1994, and there continues to
6	be great confusion regarding the application of the law and the new social science data
7	supporting the continued involvement of both parents in the lives of their children after
8	divorce and the need of children for stability in their personal lives while adjusting to the
9	new family structure; and
10	WHEREAS, newly revised child support guidelines were enacted in the 2001, 2004,
11	and 2008 Regular Sessions of the Legislature of Louisiana; and
12	WHEREAS, almost every member of the Louisiana Legislature receives numerous
13	phone calls, e-mails, and letters from constituents complaining about judicial application of
14	laws on child custody and child support; and
15	WHEREAS, no other area of the law touches Louisiana citizens, including the
16	children of our constituents, more intimately, directly, and often painfully, than the law of
17	custody and child support; and
18	WHEREAS, the judiciary has the responsibility of carefully interpreting and
19	applying the laws, which are continuously revised and amended, affecting the families and
20	children of Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, the judiciary would also benefit from the results of current social 2 science research regarding the effects of divorce and changes in the family structure on 3 children and their parents; and 4 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana desires that all members of the judiciary, not just the family and juvenile court judges, be apprised of the current status of all 5 6 Louisiana laws, particularly those affecting the children of our state. 7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that the Louisiana 8 Supreme Court is urged and requested to fully develop a mandatory continuing legal 9 education curriculum to ensure that the entire judiciary of this state is apprised of the current 10 status of Louisiana law regarding family law subjects, including child custody and the child 11 support guidelines, as well as the body of social science research that exists regarding these 12 matters. 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 14 chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and to the executive director and the 15 chairpersons of the board of governors of the Louisiana Judicial College. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court submit its report 17 to the Legislature of Louisiana, including the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure 18

and the Senate Committee on Judiciary A at least thirty days prior to the beginning of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana about the education programs on family law held since July 1, 2011, and those scheduled for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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## **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)]

Harrison HCR No. 79

Urges and requests the La. Supreme Court to institute mandatory continuing legal education for judges on family law.