Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE TIM BURNS

CHILDREN: Provides with respect to childhood addiction to pornography

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to appoint and convene a task force to evaluate Louisiana's existing laws, programs, and services that address childhood addiction to pornography, and to report its findings and recommendations for additional steps necessary to further address this issue to the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has recognized the need for intervention in the lives of children to help provide them with safe, healthy, successful, and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the Internet provides a constant, ever-changing source of information and entertainment, where email, blogs, social networks, and message boards allow for both public and anonymous communication about any topic; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics published by Family Safe Media, in 2006, there were over four million pornographic websites, which is twelve percent of the total number of websites available on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, approximately twenty-five percent of daily search engine requests involve searches for pornographic material, over forty-two percent of Internet users are viewing pornographic material, and thirty-four percent of Internet users have received unwanted exposure to sexual material through the Internet; and

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WHEREAS, the average child sees his first pornographic image at the age of eleven, and according to researchers, about ninety percent of children between the ages of eight and sixteen have viewed pornography; and

WHEREAS, children with significant exposure to sexuality in the media were shown to be significantly more likely to have had intercourse at ages fourteen to sixteen, and such exposure has been shown to lead to physical sexuality, an increase in the spread of sexual diseases, and an increase of unwanted pregnancies by young children; and

WHEREAS, neurological studies, including brain scans, of children who have become addicted to Internet pornography has revealed that the physiological changes in the brain of a pornography addict closely resemble those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs, and that this addiction has an especially deep impact on children between the ages of eight and twelve whose brains are still developing; and

WHEREAS, a study published in *The Journal of Sex Research* found that children under the age of fourteen years who are habitually exposed to pornographic material have an increased likelihood of becoming sexual predators, especially rapists; and among child molesters, research found that fifty-three percent used pornography as a prelude to their molestation; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has recognized the devastating impact of childhood addiction to pornography and has recognized the important need to evaluate Louisiana's current ability to address this issue and to revise current measures and implement new measures to properly address this growing issue; and

WHEREAS, in conducting this evaluation, it is necessary that the Louisiana State Law Institute appoint and convene a task force composed of representatives of each of the following: the Department of Children and Family Services; the Children's Cabinet; the Governor's Advisory Board of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders; the Department of Education; the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of behavioral health; the Louisiana Information Technology Board; the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission; the Children's Code Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute; the Criminal Code Committee of the

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Louisiana State Law Institute; the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; the Louisiana Public Defender Board; the Louisiana Sheriff's Association; the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice; the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family; the Louisiana House of Representatives; the Louisiana Senate; and any other entity concerned with the well-being of children in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to appoint and convene a task force to evaluate Louisiana's existing laws, programs, and services that address childhood addiction to pornography, and to report its findings and recommendations for additional steps necessary to further address this issue to the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana State Law Institute.

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)]

Tim Burns HCR No. 12

Requests the La. State Law Institute to evaluate La.'s current ability to appoint and convene a task force to evaluate existing laws, programs, and services that address childhood addiction to pornography, and to report its findings and recommendations for additional steps necessary to further address this issue to the legislature prior to Jan. 1, 2013.

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