ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE AND SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission to commission a study to assess the current state of the juvenile justice system, to evaluate the improvements made to the system in the preceding five years, to issue recommendations for a five-year plan for juvenile justice reform, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice filed a lawsuit in 1998 against the state for civil rights violations in juvenile facilities; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit led to a settlement agreement involving the United States Department of Justice, private plaintiffs, and the state; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 1225 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature provided a framework for reforming and restructuring the state juvenile justice system, providing for community involvement and facilitating collaboration among state and local agencies and various stakeholder groups; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 1225 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature additionally created the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission to conduct studies and make recommendations with regard to juvenile justice reform; and

WHEREAS, the final United States Department of Justice inspection tours found the state youth correction facilities to be in compliance with the settlement agreement, and on May 1, 2006, the state was officially released from the litigation and oversight by the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the state's reform efforts, the state-operated juvenile corrections system downsized from over two thousand incarcerated youth in 2003 to a current population of less than five hundred juveniles; and

WHEREAS, many more youth involved with the juvenile justice system now remain in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Models for Change Program, funded through the MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with other key stakeholders, are willing to devote time, effort, resources, and technical assistance to complete a study at the request of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission on the state of juvenile justice reform in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission to commission a study to assess the current state of the juvenile justice system, to evaluate the improvements made to the system in the preceding five years, to issue recommendations for a five-year plan for juvenile justice reform, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to every member of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE