

Requests the chief justice of the La. Supreme Court to create a Families in Need of Services Commission to study and issue recommendations for a restructuring of FINS operations to improve access to appropriate services for FINS families throughout Louisiana.

Provides that the chief justice shall: (1) determine the composition of the commission and appoint its members and (2) seek input from the Coordinated System of Care Governance Board, including the DOE, the DCFS, the DHH, and the DPS&C, youth services, and the office of juvenile justice.

Provides that the commission hold its organizational meeting prior to August 1, 2011.

Provides that, as part of its study, the commission shall review nationally recognized state and local model status offender systems and programs in consultation with Louisiana Models for Change, the MacArthur Foundation, and other key stakeholders.

Provides that the study and recommendations shall address, but not be limited to:

- (1) The identification of the state entity or agency best suited to govern, regulate, and oversee FINS services throughout the state.
- (2) The refinement of a FINS target population that aligns with both national best practices and the unique needs of Louisiana's youth and families.
- (3) The inclusion of fundamental components of model status offender programs in the recommended Louisiana system.
- (4) The implementation of due diligence requirements that schools and other agencies provide that diligent efforts have been made prior to referral, ensuring that referring agencies have attempted all appropriate internal interventions before referring to informal or formal FINS.
- (5) Alternative graduated sanctions and the possible elimination of detention for status offending youth, which have been well-established to expose status offenders to negative peer influences and other harmful circumstances that can often worsen, rather than improve, their behavior.
- (6) The selection of baseline data elements and a data management system to collect and track outcomes, which is essential for both the success and sustainability of reform.
- (7) Proposed legislation for implementation of commission recommendations.

Requires that the commission submit a report to the legislature 30 days prior to the 2012 RS and terminate on December 31, 2012.