

1 WHEREAS, a body of research, practice, and legislation demonstrates the benefits
2 and successes associated with treating status offenders in immediate, voluntary, and
3 community-based services outside of the juvenile justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44 of the 2011 Regular Session of
5 the Legislature requested the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court to create a FINS
6 Commission to study and issue recommendations regarding the FINS system; and

7 WHEREAS, the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court created the FINS
8 Commission, and the commission issued its report on February 10, 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, the FINS Commission made numerous recommendations, many of
10 which may be implemented by policy and procedure changes initiated by the Louisiana
11 Supreme Court, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health
12 and Hospitals, the Department of Education, the Governor's Children's Cabinet, and the
13 office of juvenile justice within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court Families in Need of Services Assistance
16 Program (FINSAP) and the Governor's Children's Cabinet to enter into a memorandum of
17 understanding for the purpose of sharing information related to status offending youth and
18 their families, to include all relevant data, resource mapping of all current resources or
19 services offered, and the related fiscal costs of serving status offending youth and their
20 families.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FINSAP and the Governor's Children's Cabinet
22 should execute a memorandum of understanding prior to August 1, 2012, for the purpose of
23 sharing information related to status offending youth and their families.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP and the Louisiana Behavioral
25 Health Partnership (LBHP) should work jointly to develop clear linkages for referral for
26 assessment and treatment.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should develop a clear and
28 consistent set of written criteria and protocols to be used in every office in the state to
29 determine whether a referred child or family is eligible for Informal FINS services or should
30 be referred to another agency, including a determination that the presenting behavior rises

1 to the level of status offending behavior, a determination that a referring entity has taken
2 appropriate steps to provide services prior to referral and can provide documentation that
3 these steps have been taken, and that children or families currently being served by the
4 juvenile justice or child welfare system are not accepted for Informal FINS.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should develop a clinical screening
6 and, when needed, assessment process to identify needs.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP and Governor's Children's Cabinet
8 should facilitate coordination of local Informal FINS offices with local children and youth
9 planning boards to conduct resource mapping, including services available through the
10 LBHP and other sources.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should, in collaboration with the
12 Governor's Children's Cabinet, ensure the development of an array of basic services most
13 youth who engage in status offending behavior and their family's need, including brief
14 strategic problem-solving interventions, crisis response, and respite services.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should develop the ability to refer
16 youth who have committed a status offense to agencies for specialized services when
17 needed, including shelter care, mental health, substance abuse, and family therapies.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should establish timeliness and
19 quality outcome thresholds, as set forth in the FINS Commission report issued on February
20 10, 2012.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should develop a required referral
22 form, for use in all offices, documenting that all referring entities have utilized all
23 appropriate and available resources prior to referring a child or family to Informal FINS.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should, in collaboration with the
25 Governor's Children's Cabinet make, enhancements to its data collection system in order to
26 provide relevant referral data that can better ensure future FINS activities.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should require data collection and
28 reporting by all local offices that adequately describes the Informal FINS population and
29 adequately evaluates the effectiveness of Informal FINS in meeting its stated objectives.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should develop a basic set of
2 required youth Informal FINS outcomes that will be tracked through the program's enhanced
3 data collection system.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FINSAP should annually document and
5 report information related to the Informal FINS process to the Governor's Children's Cabinet
6 and the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission, including statewide and
7 parish specific data on the number of referrals, the number of intakes, type of risk areas
8 identified, number of cases open beyond ninety days, number of youth afforded respite care
9 or runaway shelter (including length of stay), number of youth and families not petitioned
10 to formal FINS, number of youth not adjudicated delinquent within six months of the FINS
11 closure, number of status offenses only youth placed in detention, and the number of youth
12 not expelled from school.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Department
14 of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department
15 of Education, the Governor's Children's Cabinet, and the Department of Public Safety and
16 Corrections, office of juvenile justice, shall submit a report to the Legislature of Louisiana
17 and the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission on the accomplishments
18 and status of implementation of the recommendations as applicable to each agency as tasked
19 in the FINS Commission report no later than March 1, 2013.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 Louisiana Supreme Court, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department
22 of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Education, the Governor's Children's Cabinet
23 and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 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)]

Leger

HCR No. 129

Requests that the La. Supreme Court, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, the Dept. of Education, the Governor's Children's Cabinet, and the office of juvenile justice implement the recommendations related to the informal Families in Need of Services process made by the Families in Need of Services Commission in its report issued Feb. 10, 2012.

Requires the enumerated entities report to the legislature and the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission on the accomplishments and status of implementation of the recommendations no later than March 1, 2013.