
DIGEST

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Leger

HB No. 177

Abstract: Designates the Institute for Public Health and Justice as the primary researcher for and advisor to the legislature on matters related to youth in the criminal justice system and youth with behavioral health needs.

Proposed law designates the Institute for Public Health and Justice (institute), organized under authority of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, as the primary researcher for and advisor to the legislature on matters related to youth in the criminal justice system and youth with behavioral health needs.

Proposed law requires the institute to act at the direction of the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate, in consultation with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission (commission).

Proposed law provides that the institute shall serve as all of the following:

- (1) A statewide juvenile justice data repository to provide the legislature and the commission with reliable and current information.
- (2) A resource for best practices in the juvenile justice field, including promising local models of juvenile justice reform and national best practices models.

Proposed law provides that the institute shall render technical assistance to the commission, monitor the implementation of juvenile justice reform, and prepare annual reports to be submitted to the legislature and the governor.

Proposed law authorizes the institute to work in partnership with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and with other institutions of higher learning to fulfill the purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes the institute to seek, accept, and expend monies from any source, including donations, state appropriations, and federal grants and to seek, accept, and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

(Adds R.S. 24:981 and 982)