

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-004

2 State of Arkansas
3 86th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2007

SR 31

5
6 By: Senator Broadway

7 Referred to the
8 Children And Youth Committee - Senate
9 by the Arkansas Senate
10 on 03/30/2007
11

12
13 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

14 REQUESTING THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON
15 CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND THE HOUSE INTERIM
16 COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH,
17 LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS TO STUDY WAYS TO
18 IMPROVE THE STATE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR
19 YOUTH COMMITTED TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
20 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
21

22 **Subtitle**

23 REQUESTING A STUDY FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE
24 THE STATE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR
25 YOUTH.
26
27

28 WHEREAS, there is cause to evaluate needed reforms of the state's
29 juvenile justice system to more effectively and efficiently serve youth
30 committed to the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Health and
31 Human Services and to identify best practices that will reduce unnecessary
32 reliance on large juvenile correctional facilities and promote the
33 development of an appropriate continuum of community-based treatment
34 alternatives in the least restrictive settings possible consistent with
35 public safety; and
36

1 WHEREAS, an interim study proposal is required for the retention of
2 independent expert consultants to assist the Division of Youth Services of
3 the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct comprehensive needs
4 and risk assessments of juveniles incarcerated at the Alexander Juvenile
5 Correctional Facility and other facilities of the Division of Youth Services
6 of the Department of Health and Human Services to identify gaps in existing
7 community-based alternative placements and services necessary to more
8 effectively and efficiently serve juveniles committed to the Division of
9 Youth Services of the Department of Health and Human Services in the least
10 restrictive settings possible consistent with public safety; and
11

12 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to develop a juvenile justice reform
13 plan by no later than twelve (12) months from the effective date of this
14 interim study proposal that incorporates the evaluations, assessments, and
15 recommendations of the independent experts provided for by this interim study
16 proposal and other stakeholders, including the Juvenile Justice Center of the
17 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Department of Education, the
18 Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services,
19 the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services of the Department of
20 Health and Human Services, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, the
21 Arkansas Disability Rights Center, the Juvenile Ombudsman Division of the
22 Public Defender Commission, the Division of Children and Family Services of
23 the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administrative Offices of
24 the Courts, and families and youth; and
25

26 WHEREAS, there exists an urgent need for construction, renovation,
27 acquisition, purchase of equipment, maintenance, and other operating expenses
28 to implement the reform plan provided for in this interim study proposal and
29 to replace the facilities where conditions of confinement support ceasing
30 operation with facilities that meet contemporary juvenile justice national
31 best practices. These treatment services, programs, and centers shall
32 incorporate best practices for the provision of rehabilitative and other
33 services for juveniles and be consistent with applicable standards of
34 accreditation from the American Correctional Association,
35

36 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
2 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

 THAT the Senate requests that the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs study ways to improve the state's juvenile justice system for youth committed to the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5