

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-171

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE INTERIM
4 SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH A STUDY OF THE ARKANSAS
5 JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO DETERMINE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND
6 EXPLORE WAYS TO MAKE THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM MORE
7 EFFECTIVE AND BENEFICIAL FOR YOUTH IN THE SYSTEM, FAMILIES
8 AFFECTED BY THE SYSTEM, AND THE CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS.

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10 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this state and
11 in particular those involved with the juvenile justice system to have a
12 regular review and evaluation of the effectiveness of juvenile justice
13 programs; and

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15 WHEREAS, all Arkansans are benefitted by ensuring the cost-effective
16 success of juvenile justice programs in order to best protect both the adults
17 and children affected by the juvenile justice system; and

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19 WHEREAS, a current study of the Arkansas juvenile justice system is
20 warranted to make sure these goals are met,

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22 NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 THAT the Legislative Council refer to the interim Senate Committee on
27 Children and Youth a study of the Arkansas juvenile justice system to
28 determine its effectiveness and explore ways to make the Arkansas juvenile
29 justice system more effective and beneficial for youth in the system,
30 families affected by the system, and the citizens of Arkansas.

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32 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the study may include, without limitation,
33 a study of:

34 (1) Current resources and how those resources affect actual
35 outcomes for youth and public safety;

36 (2) Systemic hurdles that hamper effective outcomes;

1 (3) Juvenile justice best practices;

2 (4) Whether youth placed in Division of Youth Services custody,
3 and those placed in out-of home placements, are appropriately placed, and
4 whether those youth are placed as a result of insufficiencies and practices
5 in other child-serving systems such as behavioral health, child welfare, and
6 systems handling developmental disabilities and school referrals;

7 (5) The need for fiscal realignment to spend state dollars most
8 wisely;

9 (6) The best methods for measuring success;

10 (7) Educational re-entry plans that include outcomes other than
11 GED credentials; and

12 (8) What Arkansas can do to improve the effectiveness and
13 efficiency of its juvenile justice system.

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15 Respectfully submitted,

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19 Senator Missy Irvin
20 District 18

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23 By: GAR/GAR
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