

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H4/3/25*

95th General Assembly

Regular Session, 2025

HCR 1010

By: Representative T. Shephard

By: Senator J. Scott

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE THE STATE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR YOUTH COMMITTED TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

Subtitle

REQUESTING A STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE STATE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR YOUTH.

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

WHEREAS, a study is required for the retention of independent expert consultants to assist the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services to conduct comprehensive needs and risks assessments of juveniles incarcerated at the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center and other facilities of the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services to identify gaps in existing community-based alternative placements and services necessary to more effectively and



1 efficiently serve juveniles committed to the Division of Youth Services of
2 the Department of Human Services in the least restrictive settings possible
3 consistent with public safety; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to develop a juvenile justice reform
6 plan by no later than twelve (12) months from the adoption of this resolution
7 that incorporates the evaluations, assessments, and recommendations of the
8 independent experts provided for by this resolution and other stakeholders,
9 including the Juvenile Justice Center of the University of Arkansas at Little
10 Rock, the Department of Education, the Division of Aging, Adult, and
11 Behavioral Health Services of the Department of Human Services, the Division
12 of Developmental Disabilities Services of the Department of Human Services,
13 Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Disability Rights of Arkansas,
14 Inc., the Juvenile Ombudsman Division of the Public Defender Commission, the
15 Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services,
16 the Administrative Office of the Courts, and families and youth, and
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18 NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:
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22 THAT the House of Representatives request that the House Committee on
23 Aging, Children and Youth, and Legislative Affairs and the Senate Interim
24 Committee on Children and Youth study ways to improve the state's juvenile
25 justice system for youth committed to the Division of Youth Services of the
26 Department of Human Services.
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28 /s/T. Shephard
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