

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H4/3/25*  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025 HCR 1010  
4  
5 By: Representative T. Shephard  
6 By: Senator J. Scott  
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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

### Subtitle

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

22 WHEREAS, there is cause to evaluate needed reforms of the state's  
23 juvenile justice system to more effectively and efficiently serve youth  
24 committed to the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human  
25 Services and to identify best practices that will reduce unnecessary reliance  
26 on large juvenile correctional facilities and promote the development of an  
27 appropriate continuum of community-based treatment alternatives in the least  
28 restrictive settings possible consistent with public safety; and  
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30 WHEREAS, a study is required for the retention of independent expert  
31 consultants to assist the Division of Youth Services of the Department of  
32 Human Services to conduct comprehensive needs and risks assessments of  
33 juveniles incarcerated at the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment  
34 Center and other facilities of the Division of Youth Services of the  
35 Department of Human Services to identify gaps in existing community-based  
36 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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*/s/T. Shephard*

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