

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Third Extraordinary Session, 1989

H.C.R.

1003

By: Representatives Lipton, Newman, Glover, Forgey and Arrington

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO REVIEW THE SIGHT AND SOUND REQUIREMENTS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1974 (P.L.93-415), AS AMENDED, WITH THE INTENT TO REDEFINE THE TERM "SOUND" TO PERMIT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN USING PRESENT ADULT JAIL FACILITIES TO HOUSE JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SPONSOR, SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE ENACTMENT OF SUCH LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, in 1989, the illegal use and abuse of narcotic drugs and the illicit sale and distribution of controlled substances in the United States of America have reached crisis proportions; and

WHEREAS, the youth of America are becoming more and more involved in the ever increasing crisis of drug abuse and drug-related juvenile gang violence; and

WHEREAS, the crisis of drug crime and related violent crime is creating a critical demand for services in drug treatment and rehabilitation programs and for space in detention and correctional facilities for both juvenile and adult criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas, as well as other states, has had extreme difficulty in meeting the sight and sound separation requirements of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, without an extraordinary expenditure of public funds to build separate detention facilities or to upgrade current adult detention facilities for juvenile detention:

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS IN THE 1989 THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas hereby urges the U.S. Congress to review the so-called sight and sound separation requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-415), as amended, to redefine the term "sound" to permit state and local governments more flexibility in using present adult jail facilities to house juvenile criminal offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas hereby urges the Arkansas Congressional Delegation to sponsor, support, and promote enactment of such amendatory legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this Resolution, the Chief Clerk of the House shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to the presiding officer of the U. S. Senate and of the U. S. House of Representatives, and to each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.