

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study prospective changes to Louisiana statutes and policies relative to children placed in state custody pending child in need of care proceedings which would provide for the best interests of such children and to report its findings to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, the best interest of a child in the state foster care system is to spend the least amount of time in that system as is possible; and

WHEREAS, the process of unification of a foster child with his family is often lengthy and unproductive; and

WHEREAS, a biological mother of a child who is eligible for child in need of care proceedings may desire to place that child for private adoption; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide for the best interest of a child in foster care, a birth mother should have the liberty to execute a private voluntary act of surrender for adoption either to avoid state involvement or to reduce and ultimately eliminate the state's involvement in the child's care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study prospective changes to Louisiana statutes and policies relative to children placed in state custody pending child in need of care proceedings which would provide for the best interests of such children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide its findings in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before December 31, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE