

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 95

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to create a task force to study the statewide replication of Carroll Academy.

WHEREAS, Carroll Academy in Huntingdon, Tennessee, is an intensive day treatment program operated by the Carroll County Juvenile Court since 1994 in collaboration with the Department of Children's Services to serve the counties of Carroll, Benton, Henry, Weakley, and Henderson Counties; and

WHEREAS, Carroll Academy offers an integrated team of professionals providing compassionate, cost effective, competent care for at risk adolescents referred there by five juvenile courts for the purpose of preventing more intensive court involvement and consciously teaching/modeling functional life and academic skills necessary to assume meaningful and productive citizenship in our society; and

WHEREAS, since its inception the program has served more than 2,200 students from the local communities while holding parents accountable by an order from the local juvenile court. Carroll Academy's remarkable success can readily be seen in Carroll County alone, where the custody rate has been reduced from 40+ per year to fewer than 6+ per year for 10 years out of an 11-year period; and

WHEREAS, operated by the Carroll County Juvenile Court and licensed by the State of Tennessee, Carroll Academy is funded by the Department of Children's Services as a custody prevention agency and serves children who are ordered to their program for 6 months or until they complete the program's behavioral plan; and

WHEREAS, Carroll Academy's services include transportation to and from the program each day as ordered by that court for the purpose of behavior modification and intervention;

each student also receives counseling, balanced meals, appropriate educational services, family intervention, and group life skills training while a part of the program; and

WHEREAS, the success story that is Carroll Academy should be thoroughly examined to determine if replication of this program on a statewide basis could be beneficial and improve the lives of countless children and their families in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created by the general assembly a task force to conduct a feasibility study of the statewide replication and implementation of the Carroll Academy program in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such committee shall consist of four (4) members each from the house and senate. The senate members shall include the member of the senate who represents Carroll County and three members appointed by the speaker of the senate, who shall be one (1) member of the senate judiciary committee, one (1) member of the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee, and one (1) member of the senate education committee. The speaker of the house shall appoint four members who shall include one (1) member of the house who represents Carroll County, one (1) member from the house judiciary committee, one (1) member from the house children and family affairs committee, and one (1) member from the house education committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall seek input from the department of children's services, the department of education, representatives from Carroll Academy and the Juvenile Courts of Carroll, Benton, Henry, Weakley, and Henderson Counties, and any other parties the committee deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the task force upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the task force who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such task force until the task force reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect from among its legislative membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Seventh General Assembly no later than February 1, 2012, at which time the task force shall cease to exist.