

SENATE BILL NO. 187

BY SENATORS ULLO AND BROOME AND REPRESENTATIVE GALLOT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

AN ACT

To amend and reenact Children's Code Arts. 791.1, the introductory paragraph of 791.2, 791.4(A) and 791.5(A), relative to truancy and assessment and service centers; to clarify the role of Families in Need of Services in relation to truancy and assessment and service centers; to remove certain service organizations from required participation; to provide relative to the termination of the program and reporting requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Arts. 791.1, the introductory paragraph of 791.2, 791.4(A) and 791.5(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 791.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to authorize the creation of truancy and assessment and service centers. ~~in the judicial districts encompassing the parishes of Allen, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Claiborne, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lincoln, Orleans, Ouachita, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Union, hereinafter referred to as the "pilot program" sites, and in any parish of this state.~~ Truancy has long been demonstrated nationwide as a primary indicator of a path to juvenile delinquency. Parishes ~~in~~ **and** judicial districts ~~designated as pilot sites and other parishes~~ have demonstrated a willingness to address truancy by providing a physical location in each parish where personnel from local schools, law enforcement, courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles, district attorneys, correction and substance abuse counselors, and family and child-serving agencies can work together in a coordinated effort. Early intervention

1 has been demonstrated as the key to providing the greatest chance for correcting the
 2 actions of juveniles who demonstrate a propensity for destructive or criminal
 3 behavior. The earliest possible venue for addressing the problem begins in
 4 kindergarten. By intervening at this phase, it is possible to correct potential
 5 delinquent behavior before the chances for correction become insurmountable. The
 6 centers will address the underlying causes of truancy by pooling existing resources
 7 targeted at the child and family through appropriate action by service and treatment
 8 agencies. ~~The Families in Need of Services program in the affected judicial districts~~
 9 ~~will serve in a coordinating and facilitating capacity for the centers.~~

10 Art. 791.2. Parish involvement

11 Duly authorized representatives of the school board; law enforcement
 12 including the sheriffs' offices and city and municipal police offices; courts exercising
 13 jurisdiction over juveniles and their parents and guardians; and offices of the district
 14 attorney, corrections; **and** designated service providers ~~and the Boys and Girls Clubs~~
 15 ~~of East Baton Rouge Parish~~ shall sign interagency agreements specific to each parish
 16 which represents a commitment by each entity to agree to provide the following
 17 types of services:

18 * * *

19 Art. 791.4. Monitoring

20 A. In order to determine the effectiveness of the ~~pilot~~ program, Louisiana
 21 State University, office of social services research and development, shall develop
 22 and implement a monitoring and evaluation program ~~during the period of the pilot~~
 23 ~~program~~, subject to state funding.

24 * * *

25 Art. 791.5. ~~Termination of effectiveness; reporting~~ **Reporting; operation**

26 A. ~~The pilot programs created pursuant to such provisions shall be~~
 27 ~~operational, subject to appropriation by the legislature, from July 1, 2001 to June 30,~~
 28 ~~2007. On July first of each year beginning from July 1, 2001 through July 1, 2007,~~
 29 the office of social services research and development, Louisiana State University,
 30 shall report statistical data indicating the effectiveness of this program to the

1 appropriate standing committees of the legislature for use by the committees in
2 consideration of continuation or expansion of the program.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
8 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____