

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions to study including the Children's Code as a subject matter on the bar examination.

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a bar examination question relative to issues pertaining to the Children's Code will cause applicants to the bar to focus on child protection laws and will likely result in increased competency and service in child protection proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Part I of the Louisiana bar examination consists of separate examinations in nine core subject areas to test an applicant's knowledge of Civil Code I, Civil Code II, Civil Code III, the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Torts, Business and Negotiable Instruments, and Constitutional Law; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the bar examination is to ensure that those who are admitted have demonstrated minimum technical competence in core subject areas; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a question derived from the Louisiana Children's Code will encourage applicants to obtain the critical knowledge of the core child protection competencies necessary to respond effectively to the complex issues confronting children and families in the child protective services system; and

WHEREAS, representing children in protection cases is a complex and demanding task that requires specialized knowledge of child protection laws, the structure of the court, and the resources available to children in need; and

WHEREAS, to reach applicants to the bar before they embark upon the practice of law in other areas, it is imperative that we introduce them to the rewarding field of service to children in need; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the inclusion of a child protection question on the bar examination is to improve the delivery of legal services to children, families, and agencies, and to develop the practice of law for children and families as a sophisticated legal specialty; and

WHEREAS, there are many challenges to improving the child protection system in Louisiana which are often illustrated by the lack of skilled counsel to assist children in court; and

WHEREAS, providing an early introduction to the issue of child protection will stress its importance and will likely result in stronger advocates for children and an improved child protection services system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions to study the inclusion of the Children's Code as a subject matter on the bar examination to ensure an applicant's competency and familiarity with the issues prevalent in child cases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE