

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY SENATOR QUINN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to establish a special committee to research, study, and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of creating family courts or domestic relations sections in judicial districts that do not currently have a family court or sections that are assigned only domestic relations or family law cases, and to make recommendations on how to improve the services and efficiency of family courts and domestic relations sections currently operating in judicial districts.

WHEREAS, domestic cases constitute a large portion of the dockets of district courts and these cases inherently involve intense emotional issues which often impact the length and type of litigation on the court's docket; and

WHEREAS, domestic cases involve highly specialized areas of law, and Louisiana citizens who find themselves involved in these types of cases face difficult emotional and financial decisions; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of courts or sections specializing in domestic matters could have the result of expediting the litigation of these types of cases and provide the parties with a more efficient resolution, which would be of great benefit to the citizens of Louisiana involved in domestic matters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to establish a special committee to research, study, and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of creating family courts or domestic relations sections in judicial districts that do not currently have a family court or sections that are assigned only domestic relations or family law cases, and to make recommendations on how to improve the services and efficiency of family courts and domestic relations sections currently operating in judicial districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to consider the appointment of the following members to serve on the committee:

(1) A chairman, "reporter," to be appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary A.

(2) The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana or his designee.

(3) Three family court judges or judges who regularly hear family law matters.

(4) One judge of the Louisiana courts of appeal.

(5) Two professors who teach family law or their designee.

(6) Three attorneys who are certified family law specialists to be selected from different regions of the state.

(7) Three attorneys who have practiced family law for ten years or more to be selected from different regions of the state.

(8) Four persons who specialize in mental health, two of which shall be certified in the treatment of children and two of which shall be certified in family therapy.

(9) The secretary of the Department of Social Services or his designee.

(10) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his designee.

(11) A representative from the Family Law Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association or his designee.

(12) The reporter for the Marriage-Persons, Child Support, and Children's Code Committees of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

(13) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary A or his designee.

(14) The chairman of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure or his designee.

(15) The chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary or his designee.

(16) The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee or his designee.

(17) Four members at large.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana to assist the Louisiana

State Law Institute in conducting a review of judicial districts and to make recommendations on the need for family courts or domestic relations sections in each judicial district, the need for actions necessary for the creation of such courts or sections, and the procedures necessary for the establishment of any judgeships required to carry out the duties of a family court or domestic relations section.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute is requested to submit a written report of its findings and study results, together with any recommendations for legislation, by submission to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives at least thirty days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Louisiana State Law Institute and to the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES