

House Concurrent Resolution 120

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Summary of the Legislation: House Concurrent Resolution 120 requests the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission to commission a study to:

- Assess the current state of the juvenile justice system
- Evaluate improvements made during the preceding five years
- Issue recommendations for a five-year plan for juvenile justice reform
- Report its findings and recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session

Louisiana Models for Change: The Louisiana Models for Change Program, funded through the MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with other key stakeholders, offered to devote time, effort, resources and technical assistance to complete a study at the request of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission on the state of juvenile justice reform in Louisiana and thus House Concurrent Resolution 120 was adopted as the formal vehicle for execution of this study.

Background:

- In 1998, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the state of Louisiana for civil violations in juvenile facilities. The lawsuit led to a settlement agreement involving the justice department, private plaintiffs and the state.
- In 2003, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 1225 that provided a framework for reforming and restructuring the state juvenile justice system, providing for community involvement and facilitating collaboration among state and local agencies and various stakeholder groups.
 - Act 1225 also created the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission to conduct studies and make recommendations with regard to juvenile justice reform.