

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

HCR 1010

4
5 By: Representative T. Shephard
6 By: Senator J. Scott

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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND
10 YOUTH, AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND THE SENATE INTERIM
11 COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO STUDY WAYS TO
12 IMPROVE THE STATE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR YOUTH
13 COMMITTED TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES OF THE
14 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

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17 **Subtitle**

18 REQUESTING A STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE
19 THE STATE'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR
20 YOUTH.

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22 WHEREAS, there is cause to evaluate needed reforms of the state's
23 juvenile justice system to more effectively and efficiently serve youth
24 committed to the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human
25 Services and to identify best practices that will reduce unnecessary reliance
26 on large juvenile correctional facilities and promote the development of an
27 appropriate continuum of community-based treatment alternatives in the least
28 restrictive settings possible consistent with public safety; and

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30 WHEREAS, a study is required for the retention of independent expert
31 consultants to assist the Division of Youth Services of the Department of
32 Human Services to conduct comprehensive needs and risks assessments of
33 juveniles incarcerated at the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment
34 Center and other facilities of the Division of Youth Services of the
35 Department of Human Services to identify gaps in existing community-based
36 alternative placements and services necessary to more effectively and



1 efficiently serve juveniles committed to the Division of Youth Services of
2 the Department of Human Services in the least restrictive settings possible
3 consistent with public safety; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to develop a juvenile justice reform
6 plan by no later than twelve (12) months from the adoption of this resolution
7 that incorporates the evaluations, assessments, and recommendations of the
8 independent experts provided for by this resolution and other stakeholders,
9 including the Juvenile Justice Center of the University of Arkansas at Little
10 Rock, the Department of Education, the Division of Aging, Adult, and
11 Behavioral Health Services of the Department of Human Services, the Division
12 of Developmental Disabilities Services of the Department of Human Services,
13 Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Disability Rights of Arkansas,
14 Inc., the Juvenile Ombudsman Division of the Public Defender Commission, the
15 Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services,
16 the Administrative Office of the Courts, and families and youth; and
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18 WHEREAS, there exists an urgent need for construction, renovation,
19 acquisition, purchase of equipment, maintenance, and other operating expenses
20 for the treatment services, programs, and centers overseen by the Division of
21 Youth Services of the Department of Human Services to implement the reform
22 plan proposed by this resolution and to replace the facilities where
23 conditions of confinement support ceasing operations with facilities that do
24 not meet contemporary juvenile justice national best practices, and these
25 treatment services, programs, and centers shall incorporate best practices
26 for the provision of rehabilitative and other services for juveniles and be
27 consistent with applicable accreditation standards and incorporate best
28 practices for the provision of rehabilitative and other services for
29 juveniles,
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31 NOW THEREFORE,

32 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
33 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:
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35 THAT the House of Representatives request that the House Committee on
36 Aging, Children and Youth, and Legislative Affairs and the Senate Interim

1 Committee on Children and Youth study ways to improve the state's juvenile
2 justice system for youth committed to the Division of Youth Services of the
3 Department of Human Services.

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