

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study the issue of

3 reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families, and to recommend to the

4 legislature policies for improving coordination between the department and the

5 United States Department of Defense in matters relating to child welfare.

6 WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services, referred to hereafter

7 as "DCFS", works to meet the needs of this state's most vulnerable children by carrying out

8 vital child protection functions; and

9 WHEREAS, these functions include investigations by the DCFS child welfare

10 division of reports of child abuse and neglect; and

11 WHEREAS, current data indicate that approximately seventy percent of active duty

12 military families reside in the civilian community; and

13 WHEREAS, the secretary of the United States Department of Defense is required by

14 law, 10 U.S.C. 1787, to coordinate with civilian child welfare services for the purpose of

15 obtaining information concerning allegations of child abuse and neglect involving children

16 in military families; and

17 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense depends upon collaboration with state

18 agencies such as DCFS to fulfill this obligation to address child abuse and neglect; and

19 WHEREAS, the Family Advocacy Program of the Department of Defense requires

20 the military services to establish agreements with state and local child welfare services to

21 collaborate on the oversight of cases involving military families; and

1 WHEREAS, changes in state laws, regulations, and policies could facilitate
2 development of more consistent agreements and better coordination of state child welfare
3 functions and military protective and rehabilitative services, with the overall goal of
4 achieving the most effective partnership between the Department of Defense and the state
5 to best serve military children and families; and

6 WHEREAS, examples of model laws providing for such coordination of child
7 welfare functions are those of the states of South Carolina and Washington, which direct the
8 collection of military affiliation information as part of the child abuse and neglect response
9 process and the sharing of pertinent case information with the appropriate military
10 authorities.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to study the issue of
13 reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families, and to recommend policies for
14 improving coordination between the department and the United States Department of
15 Defense in matters relating to child welfare.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the study and recommendations
17 requested in this Resolution, the Department of Children and Family Services shall engage,
18 collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from representatives of the Family
19 Advocacy Program of the Department of Defense, Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, the Child
20 Advocacy Centers and CASA of Louisiana, and any other stakeholder groups with an
21 interest in child abuse prevention as deemed appropriate by the secretary of the Department
22 of Children and Family Services.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Children and Family Services
24 shall submit a written report of its recommendations resulting from the study requested in
25 this Resolution to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on
26 Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the Senate Judiciary C
27 Committee on or before February 1, 2018.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy of the United
30 States Department of Defense, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family

- 1 Services, the executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, and the president of
 - 2 LouisianaChildren.org.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 17 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Hoffmann

Urges and requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to study the issue of reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families and to recommend policies for improving coordination between the department and the U.S. Dept. of Defense in matters relating to child welfare.

Requests that DCFS submit a written report of its recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the Senate Judiciary C Committee on or before Feb. 1, 2018.