

SENATE BILL NO. 302

BY SENATOR BROOME

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:902.3(A) and 902.4(A), (B) and (D), relative to the Department of Corrections; to provide relative to juvenile placement; to provide relative to the conversion of Jetson Center for Youth; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:902.3(A) and 902.4(A), (B) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§902.3. Juvenile placement review process

A. The legislature hereby finds that in order to improve our juvenile justice system it is necessary that every juvenile in the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections be reviewed periodically in order to determine whether the juvenile is placed in the least restrictive placement most appropriate to their needs and consistent with the circumstances of the case and the protection of the best interests of society and the safety of the public within the state. In order to facilitate the transition of the Swanson Correctional Center for Youth-Madison Parish Unit and Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit to alternate adult offender utilization as provided in R.S. 15:902.2, **and facilitate the conversion of Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit to a regional treatment facility,** the provisions of this Section shall be applicable.

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§902.4. ~~Closure~~ **Conversion** of Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit **to a regional treatment** as a facility for juveniles

A.(1) By June 30, 2009, the Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit shall ~~no longer be used as a juvenile facility.~~ **be converted to a regional**

1 treatment facility and renamed the Louis Jetson Center for Youth. The
 2 buildings of the Louis Jetson Center for Youth will be located together in a
 3 small area on the existing Jetson property. The facility shall have a design
 4 capacity aligned with national best practices. The design shall limit the
 5 dormitory capacity to twelve youths, and implement a therapeutic setting. The
 6 regional facility shall house not more than ninety-nine youths.

7 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of Paragraph (A)(1) of this Subsection, the
 8 governor by executive order and upon a declaration that there is a public safety
 9 emergency which necessitates the use of Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge
 10 Parish Unit as a juvenile facility may extend the ~~closure~~ conversion date by a period
 11 not to exceed five months from the date of issuance of the declaration of emergency.
 12 ~~Under no circumstances shall Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit~~
 13 ~~be used as a juvenile facility after November 30, 2009.~~

14 (3) No provision of this Subsection shall prohibit the department from ~~closing~~
 15 converting Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit to the Louis
 16 Jetson Center for Youth at any time prior to June 30, 2009, should the protection
 17 and public safety of society permit.

18 B.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile
 19 justice shall develop a comprehensive plan for transitioning of these youth and
 20 conversion of the facility based upon the health, safety, and best interest of each
 21 child and the protection and public safety of society. The comprehensive plan shall
 22 include ~~the following:~~ strategies and activities to incorporate the following:

23 (a) Use of standardized and validated assessment of youth risk need
 24 factors.

25 (b) Use of treatment interventions that target known predictors of crime
 26 and recidivism to prepare for youth offenders for success in the community.

27 (c) Use of evidence-based programs.

28 (d) Staff development.

29 (e) Family involvement.

30 (f) Continuous quality improvement and evaluation of programs.

1 (g) Staff-to-youth ratio in secure facilities with plans to achieve a staffing
 2 structure consistent with positive behavior treatment models.

3 (h) Statistics of percentage of youth involved in fights in secure facilities
 4 with improvement plans.

5 (i) A time line that highlights the benchmarks to successful
 6 implementation of the plan. The plan shall be submitted to the Juvenile Justice
 7 Implementation Commission no later than December 30, 2009. Thereafter, a
 8 progress report on the plan shall be submitted on an annual basis to the
 9 Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission.

10 ~~(a) A specific plan for provision of aftercare services to meet the needs of~~
 11 ~~juveniles for whom release to the community is recommended and to provide for~~
 12 ~~safety to the community.~~

13 ~~(b) A specific date after which youths adjudicated delinquent and committed~~
 14 ~~to the department shall no longer be assigned or reassigned to Jetson Center for~~
 15 ~~Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit.~~

16 ~~(c) The plan shall permit the funds spent at Jetson Center for Youth-East~~
 17 ~~Baton Rouge Parish Unit to be reallocated or transferred within the office of juvenile~~
 18 ~~justice in proportion to the youth reassigned from Jetson to such programs.~~

19 ~~(d) The plan shall include recommendations for an alternative use of the~~
 20 ~~facility and property of the former Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish~~
 21 ~~Unit, such as a productive reentry center managed by the Department of Public~~
 22 ~~Safety and Corrections provided that all youth offenders will be treated in a humane~~
 23 ~~manner.~~

24 ~~(e)~~(j) A recommendation for implementation and funding for three regional
 25 youth centers with populations not to exceed forty-eight ninety-nine youths and
 26 housing dormitory units not to exceed twelve youths. Each center shall execute
 27 effective educational and therapeutic practices.

28 ~~(f) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile~~
 29 ~~justice in~~

30 (k) In conjunction with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation

1 Commission ~~shall~~, develop a comprehensive needs assessment plan for determining
 2 the quantity and location of additional community-based treatment and supervision
 3 programs for youth within the Louisiana juvenile justice system.

4 ~~(g) (1) The plan should include recommendations~~ **Recommendations** for the
 5 development of operating procedures to ensure that the violence and other
 6 documented problems that occurred at the Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge
 7 Parish Unit are not replicated at another **Louis Jetson Center for Youth** or other
 8 facilities where the youth are transferred.

9 ~~(h) The plan shall include a study concerning the feasibility of dispersing~~
 10 ~~youth to multiple facilities if they have been adjudicated delinquent for a crime of~~
 11 ~~violence or who have documented histories of violence since being placed at the~~
 12 ~~Jetson facility.~~

13 (2) The secretary of the department shall submit the plan on or before
 14 ~~September 1, 2008,~~ **November 20, 2009,** to the governor, to the Joint Legislative
 15 Committee on the Budget, and to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation
 16 Commission created by R.S. 46:2751 et seq.

17 **(3)** Beginning on January 1, 2009, and every month thereafter until such time
 18 as Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Parish Unit is ~~discontinued as a~~
 19 ~~juvenile facility,~~ **converted to the Louis Jetson Center for Youth** the department
 20 **office of juvenile justice** shall submit to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act
 21 Implementation Commission a status report detailing the following items:

- 22 (a) The total number of youths in the facility.
- 23 ~~(b) The number of youths transitioned out of the facility and the facility to~~
 24 ~~which the child was transferred.~~
- 25 ~~(c) The number of youths, if any, placed in the facility, and the reason for this~~
 26 ~~placement as opposed to placement in another juvenile facility, subject to applicable~~
 27 ~~confidentiality requirements.~~
- 28 ~~(d)~~**(b)** Other information requested by the commission.

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30 D. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall give a hiring

1 preference to any employee who has been involuntarily dismissed as the result of the
2 ~~closure~~ **conversion** of the Jetson Center for Youth-East Baton Rouge Unit to fill an
3 opening in the workforce of the office of juvenile justice for which that employee is
4 qualified.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____