

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 306

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and issue a report of its findings regarding changing the period of time for finalizing an adoption from one year to six months in order to more quickly provide children with permanent homes and families.

WHEREAS, Children's Code Articles 1233 and 1238 require that the child being adopted live in the adopting parent's home for an entire year prior to a court granting a final decree of adoption; and

WHEREAS, many other states require a shorter period, such as six months, before a final adoption decree is rendered by a court; and

WHEREAS, providing a permanent home and family for a child is of utmost importance for the child's best interest and development; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana values adoption as a tool paramount to the establishment of the family unit; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana recognizes the importance of placing children in loving, stable homes without unnecessary delay; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives is interested in investigating whether adoptions may be streamlined without compromising the integrity of the adoption process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the issue of changing the period of time for finalizing an adoption from one year to six months and to review other states' laws with respect to the period of time required for finalizing adoptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute shall issue a report of its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana prior to February 1, 2020, specifically

including in the report a summary of the period of time required for the finalization of adoptions in other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES