



News Release

LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

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Sen. Cloud requests injury reports from youth correction centers

BATON ROUGE – Concerned about the number of and severity of injuries sustained by residents of Louisiana’s correctional centers for youthful offenders, Sen. Heather Cloud is seeking a report on each incident by May 31.

“We have some serious issues going on in our youth detention centers and the Acadiana Center concerns me the most because my office is receiving numerous pleas for help from the workers and parents of youth at this facility,” said Cloud, R-Turkey Creek. “I am requesting this information because I believe it will help bring light to this situation and provide insight on the origin of the problem.”

Cloud has authored a Senate resolution requiring the Office of Juvenile Justice to supply the Senate Finance Committee a report on each violent incident that has occurred in each state secure facility from Jan. 1, 2016, to May 1, 2021. The facilities are Bridge City Center for Youth in Jefferson Parish, the Swanson Centers for Youth in Monroe and Columbia, the Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie, and other contracted housing for juveniles.

“This resolution is an urgent request because we don’t have time to spare,” she said. “With this information we can identify the problems and begin working on a solution.”

A 2018 Legislative Auditor report found a 120 percent increase in violence at the Bridge City center.

Cloud’s resolution calls for the report to include the date of each incident of violence, the age of the youths involved, whether the youth inflicting injury remained in the facility, and if not, to what type of facility the youth was transferred and the duration of the transfer.

Another provision of the resolution requires that the Office of Juvenile Justice provide written violent incident reports within 10 days of an occurrence to members of the Senate and House of Representatives whose districts include the secure care facility where the incident occurred.

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