

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Requests that the state Dept. of Education include school-level and system-level data in annual report of status of health and physical education in public schools and that schools and school governing authorities respond to the department's survey relative to such report

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to include school-level and system-
3 level data in the annual report that it submits to the legislature regarding the status
4 of health and physical education in public schools, pursuant to R.S. 17:17.4, and to
5 urge and request each public school and public school governing authority to
6 cooperate in responding to the department's survey relative to such report so that
7 such data can be gathered and reported.

8 WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:17, provides in part that the legislature finds that
9 childhood obesity is a growing problem in this state and that the promotion of physical
10 activity and the promotion of the consumption of snacks of higher nutritional value during
11 the school day are first steps in combating this problem and in changing the attitudes and
12 behavior of citizens toward understanding the health benefits that can be derived from
13 participation by children in physical education and activity and by providing and
14 encouraging the consumption of more highly nutritious snacks; and

15 WHEREAS, in this statute, the legislature further finds that regular physical activity
16 and healthy eating habits can contribute to protection from cardiovascular disease, diabetes,
17 and other chronic diseases, reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, help control weight,
18 and help build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints; and

19 WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:17.1, requires each public school that includes any
20 of the grades kindergarten through eight to provide at least thirty minutes each school day

1 of quality moderate to vigorous physical activity for students; such law also encourages
2 students not enrolled in a physical education course at a public secondary school to
3 participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least thirty minutes each day to
4 develop good health and physical fitness and to improve motor coordination and physical
5 skills; and

6 WHEREAS, this statute also requires each city, parish, and other local public school
7 board to establish a school health advisory council to advise the board on physical activity
8 for students, physical and health education, nutrition, and overall student health; and

9 WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:17.4, requires the state Department of Education
10 to submit a written report to the House and Senate committees on education and the House
11 and Senate committees on health and welfare each year regarding the status of health and
12 physical education in the public elementary and secondary schools in the state, including
13 findings and recommendations; in order to assess such status, the department administers a
14 survey; and

15 WHEREAS, the survey typically includes questions regarding the employment of
16 health and physical education specialists; the minutes of health education provided per week;
17 the minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity provided daily and weekly; the
18 minutes of recess provided daily; information regarding vending machine contents; and the
19 establishment of School Health Advisory Councils; and

20 WHEREAS, the survey also inquires, if a school fails to provide at least one hundred
21 fifty minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity weekly, as to the reasons for the lack
22 of compliance; and

23 WHEREAS, the 2017 report includes an appendix listing the respondents to this
24 survey, including some parish school systems, two state schools, and some charter schools;
25 however, the report does not break down the response data in a way that indicates
26 compliance or lack thereof by each school system overall or each school in particular, and
27 not every school or school system responded to the survey; and

28 WHEREAS, in order to aptly assess whether or not individual schools and school
29 systems are complying with state laws relative to health and physical education, it is
30 essential that this annual report include school-level and system-level data and that schools

1 and school governing authorities respond to the survey in order to supply such data to the
2 department.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 urge and request the state Department of Education to include school-level and system-level
5 data in the annual report that it submits to the legislature regarding the status of health and
6 physical education in public schools pursuant to R.S. 17:17.4.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request that
8 the report indicate whether or not each school has complied with the requirements of R.S.
9 17:17.1 relative to daily physical activity, provide this compliance information for each
10 month of the school year, and provide reasons for non-compliance, if applicable.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature does hereby urge and request each
12 public school and public school governing authority to cooperate in responding to the
13 department's survey relative to such report so that such data can be gathered and reported.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
15 to the state Department of Education's health and physical education coordinator; the
16 executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, who shall disseminate a copy
17 to each city, parish, or other local public school board; and the state superintendent of
18 education, who shall disseminate a copy to the governing authority of each charter school
19 and state school.

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 11 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Norton

Requests that the state Dept. of Education include school-level and system-level data in the annual report regarding the status of health and physical education in public schools that it submits to the legislature pursuant to present law and requests that each public school and public school governing authority cooperate in responding to the department's survey relative to such report so that such data can be gathered and reported.