

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 242

BY SENATOR BARROW

SCHOOLS. Requests DOE to provide information to the legislative education committees establishing the state's charter schools' compliance with the intent, purpose, and objectives established in the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to provide evidence, data, and  
3 documentation to the senate and house education committees establishing the state's  
4 charter schools' compliance with the intent, purpose, and objectives established in  
5 the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law, and that charter schools are held  
6 accountable for student academic performance, financial performance, and  
7 compliance with statutory, regulatory, and contractual obligations pursuant to each  
8 school's charter contract.

9 WHEREAS, the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law (Charter School Law)  
10 states that the intent of the law is to allow for experimentation by authorizing the creation  
11 of innovative kinds of independent public schools, provide a means for all persons with valid  
12 ideas and motivation to participate in the experiment, and to provide a mechanism by which  
13 experiment results can be analyzed, the positive results repeated or replicated, and the  
14 negative results identified and eliminated; and

15 WHEREAS, the charter school law further expresses the intent of the legislature that  
16 the best interests of at-risk pupils shall be the overriding consideration in implementing the  
17 law; and

18 WHEREAS, the Charter School Law defines "charter school" as "an independent

1 public school that provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both,  
2 established....to provide a learning environment that will improve pupil achievement."; and

3 WHEREAS, the Charter School Law (R.S. 17:3972(B)) provides that each charter  
4 school be designed to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

5 (1) Improve pupil learning.

6 (2) Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education for pupils.

7 (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods and a variety of  
8 governance, management, and administrative structures.

9 (4) Require appropriate assessment and measurement of academic learning results.

10 (5) Account better and more thoroughly for educational results.

11 (6) Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school employees;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, charter schools operate with greater flexibility and autonomy in  
14 exchange for increased accountability.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
16 does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to provide evidence, data,  
17 and documentation to the senate and house education committees establishing the state's  
18 charter schools' compliance with the intent, purpose, and objectives established in the  
19 Charter School Demonstration Programs Law, and that charter schools are held accountable  
20 for student academic performance, financial performance, and compliance with statutory,  
21 regulatory, and contractual obligations pursuant to each school's charter contract.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education submit its  
23 response to this Resolution not later than January 1, 2019.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
25 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state  
26 superintendent of education.

