

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

TEACHERS: Requests the governor and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to work with the legislature to increase the average pay of public school teachers

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the governor and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
3 Education to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide funding to increase
4 teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary will equal or
5 exceed the average teacher salary for the southern region.

6 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that "the goal of the public
7 educational system is to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of
8 human development, that are . . . designed to promote excellence in order that every
9 individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential"; and

10 WHEREAS, attracting and retaining quality teachers in all of Louisiana's classrooms
11 is one of the most important aspects in assuring that an excellent educational environment
12 is provided; and

13 WHEREAS, the current shortage of teachers is a statewide concern among school
14 districts; and

15 WHEREAS, placing a highly qualified, highly engaged, appropriately certified
16 teacher in every classroom will become more difficult to do if teacher pay in Louisiana
17 continues to lag behind the pay of other professions in this state and teacher salaries in other
18 states in this region; and

1 WHEREAS, teacher pay, as calculated by the Economic Policy Institute with
2 adjustments for inflation, fell \$30 per week from 1996 to 2015, while weekly pay for other
3 college graduates increased by \$124 over the same time period; and

4 WHEREAS, the latest data from the Southern Region Education Board (SREB)
5 shows that the average Louisiana teacher salary is \$49,745, which is \$1,210 below the
6 southern average; and

7 WHEREAS, providing competitive salaries is absolutely necessary in order to
8 encourage the best and brightest young people to enter the teaching profession and to teach
9 in the public schools, as well as provide an incentive for excellent teachers to make teaching
10 a lifelong career; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana House of Representatives is appreciative of the dedication
12 of Louisiana's classroom teachers and their tireless work in providing a high quality
13 educational environment to each student in our state; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana House of Representatives supports providing public
15 school teachers and school support personnel competitive pay and benefits.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor and the State Board of
18 Elementary and Secondary Education to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide
19 funding to increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary will
20 equal or exceed the average teacher salary for the southern region.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 governor and the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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)]

HR 1 Original

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

Bagley

Requests the governor and BESE to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide funding to increase teacher salaries to the level where the average teacher salary in La. will equal or exceed the average teacher salary for the southern region.