

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

SCHOOLS: Requests the state Department of Education and Louisiana Department of Health to identify resources necessary to install water bottle filling stations in schools

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of
3 Health to identify solutions and resources necessary to install water bottle filling
4 stations during new construction and renovation projects at public elementary and
5 secondary schools.

6 WHEREAS, adequate water consumption has a positive impact on students'
7 cognitive performance, particularly short-term memory; drinking water can also improve
8 visual attention and fine motor skills; and

9 WHEREAS, proper hydration plays an important role in maintaining a child's overall
10 health by supporting muscles, joints, tissue, and the digestive system; and

11 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the National Sanitation Foundation International
12 found there were more germs found on an average classroom water fountain spigot than
13 there were on a toilet seat; amidst a global pandemic, personal water bottles and water bottle
14 filling stations may help reduce the spread of germs and disease, while also promoting water
15 consumption among Louisiana youth; and

16 WHEREAS, access to clean drinking water in schools varies based on many factors;
17 all students, regardless of grade level, socioeconomic status, or geographic area deserve to
18 attend a school that provides such a resource at no cost; and

1 WHEREAS, water bottle filling stations would provide a safe alternative to a water
2 fountain, allow for social distancing, and increase access to water for public school students,
3 teachers, and staff; and

4 WHEREAS, the cost of installing a station is comparable, if not less expensive, than
5 the cost of installing a water fountain; and

6 WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parish school system recently took the initiative to install
7 water bottle filling stations in all schools scheduled to undergo renovations or construction;
8 other school systems throughout Louisiana are currently considering similar moves.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education and
11 the Louisiana Department of Health to identify solutions and resources necessary to install
12 water bottle filling stations during new construction and renovation projects at public
13 elementary and secondary schools.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education and the
15 Louisiana Department of Health shall conduct an analysis of the cost of installing water
16 bottle filling stations versus traditional water fountains, including but not limited to the cost
17 of new construction and retrofitting existing water fountains into water bottle filling stations
18 and include such analysis in a report to be submitted to the House Committee on Education
19 and House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than 60 days prior to the 2021 Regular
20 Session.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
22 to the state superintendent of education and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
23 Health.

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 15 Original

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Pierre

Requests the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health to report to the legislature, no later than 60 days prior to the 2021 R.S., relative to water bottle filling stations in public schools.