

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMERO, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, CORMIER,
EDMONSTON, FARNUM, FREIBERG, MIKE JOHNSON, MCFARLAND,
SCHEXNAYDER, AND THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to meet to discuss possible adjustments to the Minimum Foundation Program formula to ensure adequate funding for school systems affected by the displacement of students due to Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta, to take into account the financial needs of systems that have lost students and systems that have gained students due to the hurricanes, and, if adjustments are necessary, to adopt a revised formula and submit it to the legislature while the legislature is convened for the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session and has the opportunity to consider the revised formula for approval.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 13(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and adopt annually a formula which shall be used to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program (MFP) of education in all public elementary and secondary schools as well as to allocate equitably the funds to parish and city school systems; and

WHEREAS, the constitution requires the legislature to fully fund the current cost to the state of the MFP as determined by applying the legislatively approved formula; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura, which made landfall in August of 2020, and Hurricane Delta, which made landfall in October of 2020, drastically disrupted elementary and secondary education services in multiple parishes; and

WHEREAS, unprecedented and widespread damage to homes and school facilities has resulted in the closure of schools and the displacement of thousands of families; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that adequate funding be provided both to parishes experiencing decreased enrollment due to the displacement of students and those whose enrollment has increased due to the intake of displaced students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the BESE to meet to discuss possible adjustments to the Minimum Foundation Program formula in order to ensure adequate funding for school systems affected by the displacement of students resulting from Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request BESE to take into account the financial needs of systems that have lost students and systems that have gained students due to the hurricanes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request BESE, if adjustments are necessary, to adopt a revised formula and submit it to the legislature while the legislature is convened for the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session and has the opportunity to consider the revised formula for approval.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE