

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 190

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

TEACHERS: Requests the state Department of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, to study pathways to the teaching profession

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education (DOE), in consultation with the State
3 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), to study all pathways for a
4 graduate of a postsecondary education institution to enter into the teaching
5 profession and to make recommendations for removing barriers to certification and
6 promoting consistency in certification and permit requirements.

7 WHEREAS, the United States is in the midst of a critical teacher shortage, which is
8 expected to continue for many years to come; the impact of this shortage is far-reaching; and

9 WHEREAS, a highly qualified teacher in every classroom in Louisiana can improve
10 academic achievement for the state's youngest citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, according to DOE, in 2022, the state of Louisiana had 43,931 teachers
12 and 1,145 teacher vacancies; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Center for American Progress found a 35% decrease in
14 teacher preparation program enrollment; from 2016 to 2021, enrollment in Louisiana's public
15 teacher preparation programs dropped by more than 1,300 teacher candidates; and

16 WHEREAS, DOE and BESE continue to increase requirements for candidates
17 graduating from both traditional and alternative teacher preparation programs as a reaction
18 to concern from the legislature for the adequate preparation of classroom teachers; such
19 requirements have included year-long residencies and minimum grade point averages and
20 test scores; and

1 WHEREAS, there is a lack of consistency in certification requirements for candidates
2 who enter the profession via a teacher certificate sponsored by a teacher preparation program
3 versus individuals who hold a bachelor's or master's degree and enter the profession via a
4 temporary employment permit; and

5 WHEREAS, under rules promulgated by BESE pursuant to requirements set forth
6 in Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, candidates in teacher preparation
7 programs are required to complete multiple requirements prior to certification, such as
8 completing between three and nine hours of literacy instruction based on the science of
9 reading, three hours of dyslexia instruction, and, pending the passage of legislation being
10 considered during the 2023 Regular Session, instruction related to the foundations of
11 numeracy; and

12 WHEREAS, if other legislation in the current session provides that individuals
13 graduating with a bachelor's degree may receive a permit to teach without meeting such
14 literacy, dyslexia, and numeracy requirements; and

15 WHEREAS, a consistent and clear approach to teacher certification in this state is
16 important for the success of teachers and students alike.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education and
19 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study all pathways for a graduate
20 of a postsecondary education institution to enter into the teaching profession and to make
21 recommendations for removing barriers to certification and promoting consistency in
22 certification and permit requirements.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE, in consultation with BESE, shall pursue
24 the following:

- 25 (1) Research on national practices regarding statewide certification policies.
- 26 (2) A review of each pathway to teacher certification or teacher of record and make
27 recommendations to ensure consistency in statewide certification policies.
- 28 (3) A review of financial barriers and implications to students in each pathway.

1 (4) Consultation with deans and directors of teacher preparation programs, at both
2 universities and private providers, to determine how candidates are impacted by the
3 certification requirements implemented by DOE and promulgated by BESE.

4 (5) Presentation of findings to the Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Recovery
5 Task Force created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 2021 Regular Session.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE, in consultation with BESE, provide a
7 written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education
8 no later than February 1, 2024.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 state superintendent of education and the president of the State Board of Elementary and
11 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 190 Original

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Requests that the state Dept. of Education, in consultation with the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, study all pathways for a graduate of a postsecondary education institution to enter into the teaching profession and to make recommendations for removing barriers to certification and promoting consistency in certification and permit requirements.