

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 192

BY REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BUTLER, CREWS, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FIRMENT, FRIEMAN, GAROFALO, HARRIS, HODGES, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, AND SEABAUGH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to revise the proposed early learning and development standards and to submit its version of the standards to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for consideration.

WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) gave notice of its intention to adopt a proposed rule revising Part CLIX of Title 28 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, commonly known as Bulletin 136, through a Notice of Intent published in the October 2022 edition of the *Louisiana Register*; and

WHEREAS, in the Notice of Intent, BESE proposed that the revisions would replace existing standards and "provide Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), a set of common, developmentally-appropriate expectations for what children typically know, understand, and are able to perform at different stages of early childhood"; and

WHEREAS, BESE received requests for a public hearing regarding the Notice of Intent and held the hearing on November 28, 2022, during which both proponents and opponents of the proposed standards provided testimony; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2022, BESE submitted its second report to the legislature, which included a copy of the Notice of Intent, the public hearing certification, and a summary of the public comments and agency response; and

WHEREAS, of the eight domains contained in the standards, there was particular public interest in the proposed standards contained in the "social and emotional development" domain contained in Section 303; and

WHEREAS, some members of the public and some legislators expressed concern that these standards were proposed without sufficient input from stakeholders, including parents and educators, and that as a result, the standards may not accurately reflect the needs and concerns of those affected by them; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2022, BESE approved reopening an online comment portal in order to receive further public comments on the proposed standards and also approved the submission of the rule for publication in the February edition of the *Louisiana Register*; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2023, BESE approved halting the publication of the rule in the February edition of the *Louisiana Register* as previously approved in order for the standards review committee to revisit and possibly revise the standards while taking additional public comment and concerns into consideration; and

WHEREAS, the review committee held continued discussions and received additional public testimony on the standards at meetings held in the spring of 2023; and

WHEREAS, at the meeting of BESE's Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee on March 7, 2023, the chair of the review committee presented an update on the ongoing work of the review committee; and

WHEREAS, at this meeting, the public comments included a request that BESE direct the state Department of Education to revise the proposed standards and present its version of the standards to BESE for consideration; this was the favored approach by some legislators and members of the public due to the repeated absence of a quorum at review committee meetings called on February 8, March 2, and March 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2023, the review committee met and, with a quorum present, voted to make only a few insignificant changes in the social and emotional development domain despite the numerous comments submitted relative to this domain; and

WHEREAS, eighty-two percent of the five hundred ninety-nine unique individuals who submitted comments in the online portal specifically addressed the social and emotional development domain, and ninety-two percent of the commenters who identified as a family member voiced concerns with this domain; and

WHEREAS, many parents have expressed frustration that the review committee failed to address their legitimate concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to revise the proposed early learning and development standards, taking into consideration public comments and concerns, and submit its version of the standards to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's submission of its version of the standards be done in a time frame that allows BESE's consideration of the department's version to occur at the board's next regularly scheduled meeting following the adoption of this Resolution.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES