

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVES MELERINE, CARVER, FREIBERG, TARVER, AND YOUNG

SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: Directs the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to explore the creation of an appeals process for certain students who do not pass state-administered, end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to explore the creation of  
3 an appeals process for certain students who do not pass the state-administered,  
4 end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation and to submit a  
5 written report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on  
6 Education, which includes a status update and any recommendations for related  
7 legislation, not later than March 1, 2025.

8 WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:24.4, requires the state Department of Education  
9 to implement the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) with the approval of  
10 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); and

11 WHEREAS, the law further requires that BESE implement standards-based  
12 assessments in English language arts, math, science, and social studies and requires BESE  
13 to establish by rule the adequate test score to determine successful performance of the  
14 student on each test; and

15 WHEREAS, successful performance on certain LEAP tests is required to obtain a  
16 high school diploma; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2023, BESE adopted a policy establishing an appeals process  
18 involving the submission of a portfolio for high school seniors unable to meet the state's  
19 LEAP test requirements for graduation; this policy was overturned by an executive order in  
20 January of 2024; and

1           WHEREAS, House Bill No. 8 of this 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature  
2 prohibits an appeals process allowing a student who has not passed LEAP tests required for  
3 high school graduation to become eligible for graduation through the submission of a  
4 portfolio; however, there is strong interest in discussing other avenues through which certain  
5 students may be eligible to participate in a graduation appeals process developed by BESE.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to explore the creation of an  
8 appeals process for certain students who do not pass the state-administered, end-of-course  
9 assessments required for high school graduation.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BESE should explore a variety of options for  
11 students to become eligible for graduation, including but not limited to the use of nationally  
12 norm-referenced testing, and should ensure that students eligible for graduation have  
13 successfully demonstrated proficiency relative to the applicable state content standards.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BESE should not allow the appeals process to  
15 be administered by the school in which the student was enrolled when he failed to pass the  
16 assessments required for graduation but rather require that the process be administered by  
17 another entity such as the school's governing authority or the state Department of Education.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BESE shall submit a written report to the House  
19 Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Education, which includes an update on  
20 the status of the appeals process development and any recommendations for related  
21 legislation, not later than March 1, 2025.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
23 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state  
24 superintendent of 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)]

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HCR 44 Engrossed

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Directs the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to explore the creation of an appeals process for certain students who do not pass the state-administered, end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation and to submit a written report to the House and Senate education committees, which includes a status update and any recommendations for related legislation, by March 1, 2025.