## 2024 Regular Session

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

## BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

# EDUCATION/FINANCE: Creates a task force to study and make recommendations on managing the costs of the state's school choice programs

| 1  | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION   |
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| 2  | To create a task force to study strategies for managing the costs of Louisiana's efforts to |
| 3  | provide families with school choice through public funding of private education, and        |
| 4  | to report to the legislature findings and recommendations from the study.                   |
| 5  | WHEREAS, the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR)                       |
| 6  | scholarship program set forth in House Bill No. 745 of this 2024 Regular Session of the     |
| 7  | Legislature (HB 745) proposes to enhance educational choice by providing all Louisiana      |
| 8  | families with access to education savings accounts (ESAs); and                              |
| 9  | WHEREAS, as authorized in HB 745, ESA owners could use funds from these                     |
| 10 | accounts to pay costs associated with private or online education; and                      |
| 11 | WHEREAS, according to the fiscal note on HB 745 (reengrossed version), the                  |
| 12 | legislative fiscal office estimates that the LA GATOR scholarship program could cost the    |
| 13 | state at least two hundred seventy-six million eight hundred thousand dollars annually      |
| 14 | beginning in the 2028-2029 fiscal year when the program is fully implemented to include     |
| 15 | all families regardless of household income; and  |
| 16 | WHEREAS, the cost of the program is expected to rise even further beyond the 2029           |
| 17 | fiscal year; and  |
| 18 | WHEREAS, for purposes of state income tax, Louisiana law, R.S. 47:297.10, allows            |
| 19 | a deduction from taxable income of up to six thousand dollars for families who pay tuition  |
| 20 | to nonpublic schools for their children's elementary and secondary education; and           |

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1 WHEREAS, this tax deduction for private and parochial school tuition expenses is 2 projected to result in over seventeen million dollars of foregone tax revenue for the state in 3 the 2024-2025 fiscal year; and 4 WHEREAS, if HB 745 is enacted into law, many Louisiana families could potentially receive an ESA through the LA GATOR program and also remain eligible for 5 6 the tax deduction for nonpublic school tuition expenses afforded by current law; and 7 WHEREAS, according to the five-year baseline budget projection that the division 8 of administration presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget on March 22, 9 2024, Louisiana is facing a budget shortfall of approximately five hundred fifty-nine million 10 dollars for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; and 11 WHEREAS, even absent LA GATOR or any other new, state-funded programs, 12 Louisiana is projected to experience continuing budget shortfalls beyond the 2025-2026 13 fiscal year, due largely to the expiration of a sales tax levy through operation of current law, 14 R.S. 47:321.1(E); and 15 WHEREAS, because the Constitution of Louisiana requires the legislature to pass 16 a balanced budget each year, the legislature's budgeting duties will become more difficult 17 pursuant to the enactment of HB 745 as a result of the LA GATOR program's significant 18 cost to the taxpayers of this state. 19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 20 create a task force to study strategies for managing the costs of this state's efforts to provide 21 families with school choice through public funding of private education. 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the 23 following members: 24 (1) One member appointed by the state superintendent of education. 25 (2) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Revenue. 26 (3) One member appointed by the governor. 27 (4) One member appointed by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers. 28 (5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Educators. 29 (6) One member appointed by Invest in Louisiana. 30 (7) One member appointed by Step Up Louisiana.

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| 1  | (8) One member appointed by the Louisiana School Boards Association.                            |
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| 2  | (9) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.                |
| 3  | (10) One member appointed by the Pelican Institute for Public Policy.                           |
| 4  | (11) One member appointed by EdChoice.  |
| 5  | (12) One member appointed by the American Federation for Children.                              |
| 6  | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study and make                                 |
| 7  | recommendations concerning all of the following matters:  |
| 8  | (1) The cost and participation rates of ESA programs in other states.                           |
| 9  | (2) The tax deductibility of private school tuition in other states.                            |
| 10 | (3) Whether to allow families who participate in the LA GATOR program to also                   |
| 11 | deduct private school tuition.  |
| 12 | (4) Potential means of prioritizing and allocating LA GATOR savings accounts in                 |
| 13 | the event the legislature does not appropriate sufficient monies to meet statewide demand       |
| 14 | for the program.  |
| 15 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education shall                         |
| 16 | convene the first meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2024.                      |
| 17 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and the                                 |
| 18 | Department of Revenue may provide staff support and other resources as may be necessary         |
| 19 | to facilitate the work of the task force.   |
| 20 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report of its                         |
| 21 | findings and recommendations to the legislature on or before March 1, 2025.                     |
| 22 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the                     |
| 23 | governor, the state superintendent of education, the secretary of the Department of Revenue,    |
| 24 | the president of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the president of the Louisiana           |
| 25 | Association of Educators, the executive director of Invest in Louisiana, the co-directors of    |
| 26 | Step Up Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana School Boards Association, the president      |
| 27 | of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the chief executive officer of the      |
| 28 | Pelican Institute for Public Policy, the president and chief executive officer of EdChoice, and |
| 29 | the chief executive officer of the American Federation for Children.                            |
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### 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)]

HCR 84 Original

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Freeman

Creates a 12-member task force to study strategies for managing the costs of Louisiana's efforts to provide families with school choice through public funding of private education. Requires the task force to report findings and recommendations from the study to the legislature on or before March 1, 2025.