

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 166

BY REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN AND SENATOR WALSWORTH

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study certain testing requirement options for students pursuing a career diploma

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
3 feasibility of offering students pursuing a career diploma the option of fulfilling the
4 eleventh grade statewide testing requirement by taking the American College Test
5 (ACT) WorkKeys assessment instead of the ACT and to submit a written report of
6 findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to
7 the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
8 Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular
9 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

10 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana states that it is the goal of the public
11 educational system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human
12 development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every
13 individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

14 WHEREAS, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy provides
15 that each eleventh grade student, with the exception of certain students with exceptionalities,
16 shall be required to take the ACT; and

17 WHEREAS, this requirement applies to students regardless of what type of high
18 school diploma they are pursuing; and

19 WHEREAS, the policy provides for four indicators, each comprising twenty-five
20 percent of a high school's School Performance Score; and

1 WHEREAS, one of these indicators is the ACT scores of eleventh grade students;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, there are some who feel that students who are pursuing a career diploma
4 should be allowed the option of an alternative assessment instrument, one that is aligned
5 with their course of study and their career goals and plans; and

6 WHEREAS, the ACT WorkKeys system is a job skills assessment system measuring
7 "real world" skills that employers believe are critical to job success; and

8 WHEREAS, educators can use ACT WorkKeys to assess whether students are
9 gaining the foundational skills necessary for success in the workplace and to identify training
10 and study changes; and

11 WHEREAS, ACT WorkKeys helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain
12 a high-performance workforce and could be an appropriate assessment for Louisiana
13 students on the career diploma path; and

14 WHEREAS, current law enacted by the legislature in 2010 provides that ACT
15 WorkKeys may be used as an alternative requirement for students graduating from high
16 school to qualify for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Tech Award; and

17 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
18 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that a thorough
19 study be conducted to determine the feasibility of allowing students pursuing a career
20 diploma the option of taking ACT WorkKeys instead of the ACT to satisfy the eleventh
21 grade state testing requirement.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
24 feasibility of offering students pursuing a career diploma the option of fulfilling the eleventh
25 grade statewide testing requirement by taking ACT WorkKeys instead of the ACT and to
26 submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for
27 legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate
28 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular
29 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the board shall consider
2 and examine all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations including but not
3 limited to applicable requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
4 and determine the feasibility of amending the state's ESEA flexibility request.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
6 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state
7 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)]

Fannin

HCR No. 166

Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility of offering students pursuing a career diploma the option of fulfilling the 11th grade statewide testing requirement by taking ACT WorkKeys instead of the ACT and to report findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House and Senate education committees prior to the 2014 R.S.