

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and consider taking all actions necessary to exempt foreign exchange students from the statewide requirement that eleventh graders take the American College Test (ACT) and to submit a written report of study findings and conclusions, including any actions taken on the issue, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy requires that each eleventh grade student, with the exception of certain students with exceptionalities, take the ACT; and

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

WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education rule requires foreign exchange students to take the appropriate assessment for their enrolled grade during the scheduled assessment period; and

WHEREAS, though foreign exchange students are expected to be fully proficient in English, there is concern that some are not and that this can be detrimental to both the students' learning experiences and School Performance Scores used in the state's school and district accountability program; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a thorough study be conducted and any necessary actions be considered to exempt foreign exchange students from the requirement of taking the ACT in the eleventh grade.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and consider taking all actions necessary to exempt foreign exchange students from the statewide requirement that eleventh graders take the American College Test (ACT) and to submit a written report of study findings and conclusions, including any actions taken on the issue, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES