

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 214

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Education to study issues relative to the minimum foundation program formula and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2014.

WHEREAS, the minimum foundation program (MFP), required by the Constitution of Louisiana, is the core of Louisiana's commitment to ensuring a minimum level of public school funding; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990's the MFP changed from a cost-driven formula to one that is primarily controlled by an anticipated appropriation, rather than an evaluation of the actual costs of public education; and

WHEREAS, the MFP has been the subject of recent litigation, and there is confusion over the purpose of the MFP and how the funding is intended to be used; and

WHEREAS, the MFP has been co-opted by other programs as a means of determining charter school funding and online course provider funding and delivering certain state-mandated retirement funding; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a lack of consistency in the understanding various stakeholders have of the purpose and function of the MFP and the nature of the funding that should be included within it; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of MFP dollars away from public school classrooms causes public confusion as to how much funding the state is really providing to the actual education of children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Education to study issues relative to the minimum foundation program and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the committee shall consider and review:

- (1) The process by which the MFP is formulated.
- (2) The factors that should be included in the MFP formula.
- (3) The appropriateness of including retirement costs in the MFP.
- (4) The nature and extent to which the development and adoption of the MFP should

be subject to the Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.

(5) The feasibility of reestablishing an MFP study commission and determining appropriate stakeholders to be included as members of such commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the committee shall invite the following stakeholders to provide information:

- (1) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- (2) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (3) The Louisiana Association of School Executives.
- (4) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- (5) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- (6) The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
- (7) The Louisiana Department of Education.
- (8) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES