HLS 14RS-1676 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVES SMITH, BARROW, AND ST. GERMAIN

EDUCATION: Requests that the state Dept. of Education and public school governing authorities implement certain measures based on the La. Women's Policy and Research Commission's recommendations pertaining to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in its 2013 report to the governor

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the state Department of Education and the governing authority of each
3	public elementary and secondary school to implement certain measures based on the
4	Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission's recommendations pertaining
5	to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in its 2013 report
6	to the governor.
7	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission, pursuant to
8	R.S. 46:2525, has submitted to the governor its annual report; and
9	WHEREAS, the commission's 2013 report to the governor addresses the
10	commission's duties: monitoring the status of Louisiana women for the purpose of evaluating
11	their economic, educational, and health concerns, needs, and hardships; identifying and
12	analyzing trends that impact the health and prosperity of Louisiana women; and advising the
13	governor on particular hardships, concerns, and needs that challenge Louisiana women and
14	their possible solutions; and
15	WHEREAS, one of the main areas of focus in the 2013 report is "Women, Education
16	and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)"; the commission focused its
17	education research this year on the importance of preparing more female students for college
18	and high-need, high-wage jobs; and
19	WHEREAS, this aspect of the commission's report focuses on efforts underway in
20	Louisiana to increase the number of girls succeeding in STEM studies and the number of

1 Louisiana women entering STEM career fields, in which the gender wage gap tends to be 2 narrower and the wages higher than in other fields; and 3 WHEREAS, the report finds that increasing girls' exposure and access to hands-on 4 activities and high-quality science labs and technology can help increase the number of 5 young women pursuing careers in STEM fields and further provides that education leaders 6 should work to identify new resources to help provide additional skills development 7 opportunities for teachers and students. 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 9 urge and request the state Department of Education and the governing authority of each 10 public elementary and secondary school to implement the following measures based on the 11 Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission's recommendations pertaining to 12 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in its 2013 report to the 13 governor: 14 (1) The legislature urges and requests the state Department of Education to seek 15 funding and public-private partnerships to increase access to technology at all public 16 schools. 17 (2) The legislature urges and requests the governing authority of each public 18 elementary and secondary school to make capital investments in building and upgrading 19 science labs for middle and high school students a budget priority, to aggressively seek 20 public-private partnerships to increase the availability of professional development 21 opportunities for teachers in the sciences, especially engineering, and to encourage middle 22 and high schools to establish STEM-related clubs for students and actively encourage female 23 students to join them. 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted 25 to the state superintendent of education, the president of the State Board of Elementary and 26 Secondary Education, the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association,

and the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

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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)]

Smith HCR No. 156

Requests that the state Dept. of Education (DOE) and public school governing authorities implement the following measures based on the La. Women's Policy and Research Commission's recommendations pertaining to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in its 2013 report to the governor:

- (1) The legislature requests that DOE seek funding and public-private partnerships to increase access to technology at public schools.
- (2) The legislature requests that public school governing authorities make capital investments in building and upgrading science labs a budget priority, seek public-private partnerships to increase the availability of professional development opportunities for teachers in the sciences, and encourage middle and high schools to establish STEM-related clubs and actively encourage female students to join them.