

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 207

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHAMPAGNE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana to study and explore French immersion program options for children of military personnel in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) was created by the legislature in 1968 to promote, support, and enhance French language immersion educational programs and instruction at all levels of elementary and secondary education in the state; and

WHEREAS, the law further requires the council to develop a model French immersion program which can be used by any school seeking to establish a French immersion program within its curriculum and to increase the number of French immersion schools in the state; and

WHEREAS, as stated in current law, R.S. 17:273.3, the legislature has found that:

(1) Research indicates that students who participate in foreign language immersion programs, particularly French, demonstrate greater levels of proficiency in the English language, higher overall academic achievement, and higher levels of self-esteem.

(2) Learning a second language has a positive effect on intellectual growth and increased awareness of diverse cultures through access to history, art, and literature.

(3) Students in foreign language immersion programs have been shown to demonstrate enhanced cognitive functions in solving complex problems and mathematical computations through the development of more divergent and higher order thinking skills.

(4) In Louisiana, French language development and French language immersion programs, in particular, provide a better understanding of the state's social traditions and serve to promote, preserve, and develop our unique bilingual culture; and

WHEREAS, CODOFIL has been contacted by many United States military bases in Louisiana which have expressed their interest in having the council explore the concept of having French immersion programs or schools available for the children of the servicemen and women stationed therein.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana to study and explore French immersion program options for children of military personnel in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CODOFIL is hereby urged and requested to study and explore such options in an efficient and expeditious manner, to the extent possible, in order to address the concerns of the military bases on this important educational initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in fulfillment of this Resolution, CODOFIL is hereby urged and requested to collaborate with local public school systems in which the military bases are located.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE