

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY SENATOR ERDEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana School Board Association, the Louisiana Department of Insurance, and the Louisiana Department of Education to study the portability of health insurance benefits for employees and retirees of local public school systems.

WHEREAS, the employees of the public school systems of this state are entrusted with our most precious resource, our children; and

WHEREAS, these faithful public servants are deserving of compensation commensurate with the efforts they expend in instructing and nurturing Louisiana's school children; and

WHEREAS, one important part of this compensation package is the opportunity to participate in a group health insurance plan, both during their active working lifetimes and into the golden years of their retirement; and

WHEREAS, retirement credit in the public retirement systems for these educators and support personnel is portable throughout Louisiana's many city, parish, and other local public school systems, providing flexibility and mobility for the employees and their families, and allowing benefit accrual reflective of a career in the profession; and

WHEREAS, at the present time in Louisiana, participation in a group health insurance plan is not universally portable among all public school systems, making it more difficult to attain the participation necessary to carry the group health insurance into retirement; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable group health insurance is of paramount importance after retirement, and portability of participation in an employer's group health insurance plan during an employee's working lifetime appears, as a matter of public policy, to be a sensible path to attaining the best health insurance coverage for these retirees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana School Board Association, the Louisiana

Department of Insurance, and the Louisiana Department of Education to study the portability of health insurance benefits for employees and retirees of local public school systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana School Board Association, the Louisiana Department of Insurance, and the Louisiana Department of Education make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Insurance no later than February 1, 2015, for possible legislation to address this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the executive director of the Louisiana School Board Association, the commissioner of insurance, and the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE