

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER AND SENATOR WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Virtual Library Study Commission to conduct a study regarding the development of a statewide virtual library and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2017.

WHEREAS, a number of states in the United States have established statewide virtual libraries composed of high-quality electronic resources and online services; and

WHEREAS, public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, and the academic libraries of postsecondary education institutions have some resources available online, but not all resources are available to all groups nor to all parishes in the state, thus creating an inequality of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the availability of greater educational resources online provides the opportunity to lower costs for students and the public in purchasing educational materials; and

WHEREAS, many college students face textbook costs in excess of one thousand dollars per year, making education less affordable; open educational resources, representing the development of shared online accessible textbook collections, can bring educational costs down considerably while making efficient use of tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, a robust statewide virtual library would provide the opportunity for all Louisiana residents to access reliable online resources and allow research to be more than simply a web search of sources with unknown reliability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Virtual Library Study Commission to conduct a study and make recommendations regarding the establishment of a statewide virtual library in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall have the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or her designee.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.
- (3) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- (4) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- (5) The governor or his designee.
- (6) The lieutenant governor or his designee.
- (7) One member of the Louisiana Library Association selected by the president of the association.
- (8) One member of the Louisiana Association of School Librarians selected by the president of the association.
- (9) The state librarian or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet as necessary and submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to establishing a statewide virtual library, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lieutenant governor or his designee shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the commission in performing its duties and, by August 1, 2016, convening the commission for its first meeting, at which the commission shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall terminate on June 30, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the lieutenant governor, who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each person

who is to serve on the commission or designate someone to serve in his place and to the president of each association from which commission members are being selected.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE