

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

STUDENTS: Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the prevalence and use of student fees in public schools

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the  
3 prevalence and use of student fees in public elementary and secondary schools in  
4 Louisiana and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the  
5 House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later  
6 than March 1, 2017.

7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana recognizes the importance of public  
8 education in affording every child an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

9 WHEREAS, a quality public school education must be available free of charge in  
10 order to provide an equal opportunity to every child regardless of the child's economic  
11 status; and

12 WHEREAS, the practice of charging fees to public school students has the potential,  
13 if overused or used inappropriately, to create economic barriers to equality of opportunity  
14 in public education; and

15 WHEREAS, students may be assessed fees for various purposes including but not  
16 limited to fees for academic materials and supplies, extracurricular activities such as band  
17 and math club, and graduation; and

18 WHEREAS, many are concerned that there is currently no method of tracking and  
19 regulating the assessment of fees to public school students.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
21 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a

1 thorough study of the prevalence and use of student fees in public elementary and secondary  
2 schools in Louisiana and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to  
3 the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than  
4 March 1, 2017.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the  
6 following:

7 (1) A comprehensive survey of the stated purpose and amount of each fee assessed  
8 to each student and his family in each public elementary and secondary school.

9 (2) Any trends in the prevalence and amount of such fees over time.

10 (3) The existence and use of fee waivers, including hardship and indigency waivers,  
11 at each such public school and the manner in which the existence of such waivers is  
12 communicated to students and parents.

13 (4) The total burden of such fees on families at each such public school.

14 (5) The relationship between the amount of such fees and the reasonable costs of a  
15 quality public education.

16 (6) The manner in which the proceeds of such fees are actually used by the school  
17 collecting the fees.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public elementary and secondary schools,  
19 school boards, and school administrators shall fully cooperate and shall provide such  
20 information, documents, and assistance to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
21 Education as may be appropriate in the completion of the study as provided by this  
22 Resolution.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
24 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state  
25 superintendent of education.

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)]

---

HCR 137 Original

2016 Regular Session

Smith

Requests the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the prevalence and use of student fees in La. public elementary and secondary schools and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees not later than March 1, 2017. Provides for matters to be included in the study.