

2016 Second Extraordinary Session
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38
BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study and evaluate the effectiveness of current state policy to address and prevent student bullying and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:416.13, requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to incorporate into a student code of conduct a policy prohibiting the bullying of a student by another student; and

WHEREAS, this law also requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the state Department of Education, to develop and adopt rules and regulations relative to the procedures and processes used to report and investigate bullying, including a timeline for investigation, written reports, parental notification, and the interviewing of students regarding bullying incidents; and

WHEREAS, student safety should be the utmost priority at both the state and local levels, and in spite of current law and state board policy, there are students who are bullied by other students; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the procedures and processes for the reporting and investigation of bullying effectively provide for the thorough investigation of bullying incidents, the appropriate responses to students who exhibit bullying behaviors and to

students who are bullying targets, and the establishment of preventative measures to reduce the recurrence of bullying; and

WHEREAS, in order for the public education system to meet its constitutional goal of providing learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence, it is imperative that every possible precaution be taken to ensure the protection of Louisiana's students from bullying.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study and evaluate the effectiveness of current state policy to address and prevent student bullying and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include the following:

(1) Statistical data including the number and type of all bullying incidents reported to the state Department of Education by public school governing authorities as required by R.S. 17:416.13 and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy.

(2) Recommendations for any changes necessary to strengthen the current laws and policies on bullying.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES