

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

TAX CREDITS: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education take action relative to School Readiness Tax Credits with respect to the repeal of the Education Tax Credit

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt
3 emergency rules to revise qualifications for the School Readiness Tax Credit for
4 eligible child care staff to capture fifty percent of the proceeds resulting from the
5 repeal of the Education Tax Credit.

6 WHEREAS, in R.S. 47:6101, the legislature recognizes that the benefits of quality
7 child care are indisputable and that a striking connection exists between children's learning
8 experiences well before kindergarten and their later school success; and

9 WHEREAS, eighty percent of brain development takes place from birth through age
10 three, and ninety percent by age four; and

11 WHEREAS, children who start school behind generally stay behind, and more than
12 forty percent of Louisiana's children enter kindergarten already behind; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2007 the Louisiana Legislature passed a unique package of tax
14 credits, the School Readiness Tax Credits, to encourage, support, and promote access to high
15 quality early childhood care and education in the state; and

16 WHEREAS, the School Readiness Tax Credits have been extremely effective in
17 achieving their purpose and have received national recognition; and

18 WHEREAS, under current Louisiana licensing regulations, a teacher in a child care
19 center is not required to have a high school degree and often earns close to minimum wage
20 with no benefits; and

1 WHEREAS, the School Readiness Tax Credit for child care staff has provided a
2 financial incentive for child care center teachers to pursue the training and education needed
3 to increase their credentials; and

4 WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2015, the number of child care teachers achieving
5 a Teacher Level 1 credential increased from nine hundred sixty-three to three thousand five
6 hundred ninety-eight, an increase of three hundred seventy-four percent; and

7 WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2015, the number of child care staff who attained
8 higher credentials, at Teacher Levels 2, 3, and 4, increased almost eight-fold, from two
9 hundred eighty-four to two thousand one hundred fifty-six; and

10 WHEREAS, the legislature is repealing the Education Tax Credit established by R.S.
11 47:297(D)(2) as amended by Section 5 of Act No. 125 of the 2015 Regular Session of the
12 Legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the 2016-2017 State of Louisiana Tax Exemption Budget,
14 the projected cost of the Education Tax Credit for fiscal year 2017 is \$11,024,000; and

15 WHEREAS, the legislature supports the idea that fifty percent of the proceeds
16 resulting from the repeal of the Education Tax Credit should go to the School Readiness Tax
17 Credits, and specifically to the Child Care Staff Credit established in R.S. 47:6106.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and
20 Secondary Education to adopt emergency rules, in accordance with the provisions of the
21 Administrative Procedure Act and R.S. 47:6103(A)(2) and (B), to revise qualifications for
22 the School Readiness Tax Credit for eligible child care staff, pursuant to R.S. 47:6106, to
23 capture fifty percent of the proceeds resulting from the repeal of the Education Tax Credit
24 to be used for child care teachers beginning with calendar year 2018.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
26 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
27 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)]

HR 217 Original

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Smith

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