HLS 18RS-249 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Requests that the state Dept. of Education include schoollevel and system-level data in annual report of status of health and physical education in public schools and that schools and school governing authorities respond to the department's survey relative to such report

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to include school-level and system-3 level data in the annual report that it submits to the legislature regarding the status 4 of health and physical education in public schools, pursuant to R.S. 17:17.4, and to 5 urge and request each public school and public school governing authority to 6 cooperate in responding to the department's survey relative to such report so that 7 such data can be gathered and reported. 8 WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:17, provides in part that the legislature finds that 9 childhood obesity is a growing problem in this state and that the promotion of physical 10 activity and the promotion of the consumption of snacks of higher nutritional value during 11 the school day are first steps in combating this problem and in changing the attitudes and 12 behavior of citizens toward understanding the health benefits that can be derived from 13 participation by children in physical education and activity and by providing and 14 encouraging the consumption of more highly nutritious snacks; and 15 WHEREAS, in this statute, the legislature further finds that regular physical activity 16 and healthy eating habits can contribute to protection from cardiovascular disease, diabetes, 17 and other chronic diseases, reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, help control weight, 18 and help build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints; and 19 WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:17.1, requires each public school that includes any 20 of the grades kindergarten through eight to provide at least thirty minutes each school day

1	of quality moderate to vigorous physical activity for students; such law also encourages
2	students not enrolled in a physical education course at a public secondary school to
3	participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least thirty minutes each day to
4	develop good health and physical fitness and to improve motor coordination and physical
5	skills; and
6	WHEREAS, this statute also requires each city, parish, and other local public school
7	board to establish a school health advisory council to advise the board on physical activity
8	for students, physical and health education, nutrition, and overall student health; and
9	WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:17.4, requires the state Department of Education
10	to submit a written report to the House and Senate committees on education and the House
11	and Senate committees on health and welfare each year regarding the status of health and
12	physical education in the public elementary and secondary schools in the state, including
13	findings and recommendations; in order to assess such status, the department administers a
14	survey; and
15	WHEREAS, the survey typically includes questions regarding the employment of
16	health and physical education specialists; the minutes of health education provided per week;
17	the minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity provided daily and weekly; the
18	minutes of recess provided daily; information regarding vending machine contents; and the
19	establishment of School Health Advisory Councils; and
20	WHEREAS, the survey also inquires, if a school fails to provide at least one hundred
21	fifty minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity weekly, as to the reasons for the lack
22	of compliance; and
23	WHEREAS, the 2017 report includes an appendix listing the respondents to this
24	survey, including some parish school systems, two state schools, and some charter schools;
25	however, the report does not break down the response data in a way that indicates
26	compliance or lack thereof by each school system overall or each school in particular, and
27	not every school or school system responded to the survey; and
28	WHEREAS, in order to aptly assess whether or not individual schools and school
29	systems are complying with state laws relative to health and physical education, it is
30	essential that this annual report include school-level and system-level data and that schools

HLS 18RS-249
ORIGINAL
HCR NO. 11

and school governing authorities respond to the survey in order to supply such data to the department.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to include school-level and system-level

data in the annual report that it submits to the legislature regarding the status of health and

6 physical education in public schools pursuant to R.S. 17:17.4.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request that the report indicate whether or not each school has complied with the requirements of R.S. 17:17.1 relative to daily physical activity, provide this compliance information for each month of the school year, and provide reasons for non-compliance, if applicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature does hereby urge and request each public school and public school governing authority to cooperate in responding to the department's survey relative to such report so that such data can be gathered and reported.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state Department of Education's health and physical education coordinator; the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, who shall disseminate a copy to each city, parish, or other local public school board; and the state superintendent of education, who shall disseminate a copy to the governing authority of each charter school and state school.

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 11 Original

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Norton

Requests that the state Dept. of Education include school-level and system-level data in the annual report regarding the status of health and physical education in public schools that it submits to the legislature pursuant to <u>present law</u> and requests that each public school and public school governing authority cooperate in responding to the department's survey relative to such report so that such data can be gathered and reported.