SLS 18RS-2584 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY SENATOR MORRISH

TEACHERS. Requests the governor and BESE to work with the legislature to increase the average pay of public school teachers.

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the governor and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
3	Education, to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide funding to
4	increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary will
5	equal or exceed the average teacher salary for the southern region.
6	WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that "the goal of the public
7	educational system is to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of
8	human development, that are designed to promote excellence in order that every
9	individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential"; and
10	WHEREAS, attracting and retaining quality teachers in all of Louisiana's classrooms
11	is one of the most important aspects in assuring that an excellent educational environment
12	is provided; and
13	WHEREAS, the current shortage of teachers is a statewide concern among school
14	districts; and
15	WHEREAS, placing a highly qualified, highly engaged, appropriately certified
16	teacher in every classroom will become more difficult to do if teacher pay in Louisiana
17	continues to lag behind the pay of other professions in our state and teacher salaries in other
18	states in our region; and

1	WHEREAS, teacher pay, as calculated by the Economic Policy Institute with
2	adjustments for inflation, fell \$30 per week from 1996 to 2015, while weekly pay for other
3	college graduates increased by \$124 over the same time period; and
4	WHEREAS, the latest data from the Southern Region Education Board (SREB)
5	shows that the average Louisiana teacher salary is \$49,745, which is \$1,210 below the
6	southern average; and
7	WHEREAS, providing competitive salaries is absolutely necessary in order to
8	encourage our best and brightest young people to enter the teaching profession and to teach
9	in our public schools, as well as provide an incentive for excellent teachers to make a
10	lifelong career in our schools; and
11	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Senate is appreciative of the dedication of Louisiana's
12	classroom teachers and their tireless work in providing a high-quality educational
13	environment to each student in our state; and
14	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Senate supports providing public school teachers and
15	school support personnel competitive pay and benefits.
16	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17	does hereby urge and request the governor and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
18	Education, to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide funding to increase
19	teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary will equal or exceed
20	the average teacher salary for the southern region.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22	governor and the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST 2018 Regular Session

SR 164 Original

Morrish

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