

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governor and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide funding to increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary will equal or exceed the average teacher salary for the southern region.

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

WHEREAS, attracting and retaining quality teachers in all of Louisiana's classrooms is one of the most important aspects in assuring that an excellent educational environment is provided; and

WHEREAS, the current shortage of teachers is a statewide concern among school districts; and

WHEREAS, placing a highly qualified, highly engaged, appropriately certified teacher in every classroom will become more difficult to do if teacher pay in Louisiana continues to lag behind the pay of other professions in our state and teacher salaries in other states in our region; and

WHEREAS, teacher pay, as calculated by the Economic Policy Institute with adjustments for inflation, fell \$30 per week from 1996 to 2015, while weekly pay for other college graduates increased by \$124 over the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the latest data from the Southern Region Education Board (SREB) shows that the average Louisiana teacher salary is \$49,745, which is \$1,210 below the southern average; and

WHEREAS, providing competitive salaries is absolutely necessary in order to encourage our best and brightest young people to enter the teaching profession and to teach in our public schools, as well as provide an incentive for excellent teachers to make a lifelong career in our schools; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Senate is appreciative of the dedication of Louisiana's classroom teachers and their tireless work in providing a high-quality educational environment to each student in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Senate supports providing public school teachers and school support personnel competitive pay and benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to work with the legislature to explore ways to provide funding to increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary will equal or exceed the average teacher salary for the southern region.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE