

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 242

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to provide evidence, data, and documentation to the senate and house education committees establishing the state's charter schools' compliance with the intent, purpose, and objectives established in the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law, and that charter schools are held accountable for student academic performance, financial performance, and compliance with statutory, regulatory, and contractual obligations pursuant to each school's charter contract.

WHEREAS, the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law (Charter School Law) states that the intent of the law is to allow for experimentation by authorizing the creation of innovative kinds of independent public schools, provide a means for all persons with valid ideas and motivation to participate in the experiment, and to provide a mechanism by which experiment results can be analyzed, the positive results repeated or replicated, and the negative results identified and eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the charter school law further expresses the intent of the legislature that the best interests of at-risk pupils shall be the overriding consideration in implementing the law; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School Law defines "charter school" as "an independent public school that provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both, established . . . to provide a learning environment that will improve pupil achievement"; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School Law (R.S. 17:3972(B)) provides that each charter school be designed to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- (1) Improve pupil learning.
- (2) Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education for pupils.
- (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods and a variety of

governance, management, and administrative structures.

(4) Require appropriate assessment and measurement of academic learning results.

(5) Account better and more thoroughly for educational results.

(6) Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school employees;

and

WHEREAS, charter schools operate with greater flexibility and autonomy in exchange for increased accountability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to provide evidence, data, and documentation to the senate and house education committees establishing the state's charter schools' compliance with the intent, purpose, and objectives established in the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law, and that charter schools are held accountable for student academic performance, financial performance, and compliance with statutory, regulatory, and contractual obligations pursuant to each school's charter contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education submit its response to this Resolution not later than January 1, 2019.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE