

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Requests the state Dept. of Education, the La. Dept. of Health, and the Dept. of Children and Family Services to work collaboratively to coordinate opportunities and access to early childhood programs

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Department of Health,
3 and the Department of Children and Family Services to continue to work
4 collaboratively to coordinate opportunities and access to early childhood programs
5 at the state and local levels.

6 WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated the value of investments in early childhood
7 programs that improve basic social, emotional, and cognitive skills of young children at the
8 earliest possible age; and

9 WHEREAS, research has shown that investment in high quality early childhood
10 programs has an immediate economic development impact as well as long-term economic
11 benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, state entities involved in the oversight or provision of early childhood
13 programs should collaborate and integrate processes to the fullest extent possible and
14 administer early childhood programs in such a way that ensures the safety, welfare, and
15 healthy development of children; and

16 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:407.21 et seq. directs the State Board of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education to create a comprehensive and integrated network through which it
18 manages and oversees all programs funded through state or federal resources that provide
19 early childhood care or educational services; and

1 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved a
2 framework to implement the Early Childhood Care and Education Network which was
3 developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of
4 Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Early Childhood Advisory Council, the
5 Nonpublic Schools Council, and the Child Care Association of Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, the framework to implement the Early Childhood Care and Education
7 Network included the following:

8 (1) Funding based on performance and demand that ensures that all parents,
9 regardless of income, have access to higher quality programs that prepare their child for
10 success in school.

11 (2) Clear and easy-to-understand information that allows families to make informed
12 decisions about what program is best for their young children.

13 (3) Resources and support to improve the quality of care and instruction to ensure
14 all students have access to effective early childhood professionals; and

15 WHEREAS, this framework is necessary to inform continued collaboration and
16 efforts among state agencies to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Early Childhood Care
17 and Education Network, support to parents and child care providers, and appropriate
18 oversight; and

19 WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for better coordination and collaboration
20 among early childhood programs operating in the state, including more regular dialogue and
21 increased information sharing among the various providers of such programs at all levels as
22 well as school governing authorities, businesses, and local governments that participate in
23 community networks.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 urge and request the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Department of Health,
26 and the Department of Children and Family Services to continue to work collaboratively to
27 coordinate opportunities and access to early childhood programs at the state and local levels.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall submit
29 a written report to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education,

1 the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and
2 Welfare on the status and progress of the collaboration by December 1, 2019.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 state superintendent of education, the president of the State Board of Elementary and
5 Secondary Education, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the secretary
6 of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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 38 Original

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Requests the state Dept. of Education, the La. Dept. of Health, and the Dept. of Children and Family Services to continue to work collaboratively to coordinate opportunities and access to early childhood programs and provides for a written report by Dec. 1, 2019.