HLS 19RS-2864 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

SCHOOLS: Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study school calendar options for public schools

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
3	advantages and disadvantages of school calendar options for public schools and to
4	submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations to the House
5	Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than
6	March 1, 2020.
7	WHEREAS, school calendars and schedules for public school students in Louisiana
8	are determined by each public school governing authority; and
9	WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:154.1, requires that a school day consist of at least
10	three hundred sixty minutes of instructional time and a school year consist of at least one
11	hundred seventy-seven days of instruction; and
12	WHEREAS, the law authorizes a public school governing authority to modify the
13	total number of instructional minutes per day and instructional days per year provided the
14	number of instructional minutes per year is not less than the total instructional time achieved
15	by one hundred seventy-seven three hundred sixty-minute days; and
16	WHEREAS, policies adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
17	Education relative to instructional time provide that each public school governing authority
18	shall adopt a calendar that includes a school year that is in accordance with current law; and
19	WHEREAS, in addition, Louisiana law has authorized the operation of year-round
20	schools for many decades; and

1	WHEREAS, with the flexibility given to public school governing authorities to set
2	school calendars best suited for their students, employees, and families, the governing
3	authorities have various options available such as shortening the school week, lengthening
4	the school day, and conducting school year-round; and
5	WHEREAS, over the years, some schools and school systems in Louisiana have
6	implemented a four-day schedule and Avoyelles Parish recently announced its plans to move
7	to this type of schedule beginning in the next school year; and
8	WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL),
9	over five hundred school districts in twenty-five states have one or more schools using a
10	four-day schedule and this option has become more common over the last decade; and
11	WHEREAS, NCSL found that the reasons for implementing the shorter school week
12	vary but most school districts implement it to cut costs due to budget constraints; and
13	WHEREAS, the research further found that the majority of schools using a four-day
14	week are in rural districts but that in recent years some larger, urban districts have begun to
15	consider the option; and
16	WHEREAS, other research shows that in the past few years schools in several states
17	including Florida, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Montana, and New Mexico have
18	converted to four-day school weeks to save transportation and utility costs, and currently
19	more than half of Colorado's school districts are using a four-day school week; and
20	WHEREAS, in addition to cost savings, other advantages reported by some that have
21	shortened the school week include improvements in student attendance, academic
22	achievement, and teacher recruitment, more time for professional development and lesson
23	planning for teachers, and parents and teachers can schedule doctor's appointments and other
24	weekday commitments on the day that school is not in session; and
25	WHEREAS, some disadvantages that have been found include difficulty for some
26	parents who are unable to find child care for the one day school is closed each week and
27	students do not have access to school meals on the day off; and
28	WHEREAS, like four-day school weeks, a disadvantage of operating schools on a
29	year-round basis is the difficulty for parents to arrange for child care; other drawbacks

include interference with students extracurricular activities, sports schedules, and family
vacations: and

WHEREAS, some benefits of year-round schooling, as well as lengthening the school day, are more time for student learning, higher academic achievement, maximum utilization of school facilities, and increased teacher pay; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to consider research on these and other positive and negative effects of school calendar options for Louisiana's public schools in order to assist public school governing authorities in determining schedules that best meet the needs of their students, employees, and families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the advantages and disadvantages of school calendar options for public schools and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2020.

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

## 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 108 Original

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2019 Regular Session

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Requests the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the advantages and disadvantages of school calendar options for public schools and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees by March 1, 2020.