

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 256

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study the feasibility of establishing a statewide database for collecting detailed information regarding the discipline of school personnel to be used in the issuance and revocation of teaching certificates and teaching authorizations, and for hiring school teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.

WHEREAS, school-aged children spend almost fifty percent of their waking hours in the care of school personnel; and

WHEREAS, keeping people who prey on children out of our schools is paramount; and

WHEREAS, it has been documented that teachers who have been accused of endangering children have been permitted to resign without documentation of the misconduct; and

WHEREAS, it has also been documented that some of these teachers have been rehired by unsuspecting school districts and then later preyed on other children; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies in Louisiana developed and operate a database to collect and report data on the misconduct of law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, this database was developed in order to prevent officers from resigning to avoid disciplinary action, only to be rehired by another agency without disclosing past misconduct; and

WHEREAS, the database is used only for purposes of hiring and revocation of certifications; and

WHEREAS, our youngest and most vulnerable citizens deserve the same protections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study the feasibility of establishing a statewide database for collecting detailed information regarding the discipline of school personnel to be used in the issuance and revocation of teaching certificates and teaching authorizations, and for hiring school teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review of the Louisiana Uniform Law Enforcement Statewide Reporting Database, including its reporting requirements, forms, procedures, and reports for guidance in establishing a school personnel database.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall submit a written report on any findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education at least thirty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE