

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

SCHOOLS/BUS OPERATORS: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study the compensation schedule for school bus operators

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
3 compensation schedule for school bus operators and to submit a written report of its
4 findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to
5 the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later
6 than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

7 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:497 provides a schedule of compensation rates to be paid to
8 school bus operators for the operation of school buses that is based on mileage and the length
9 of the bus; and

10 WHEREAS, the schedule, which has been in place since the mid-1980s, is long
11 overdue for an update reflective of the modern realities of school transportation; and

12 WHEREAS, commensurate with inflation in the price of gasoline, school bus parts,
13 and mechanical costs, the costs of school bus operation have risen significantly since the
14 schedule was developed; and

15 WHEREAS, considerations at the time the schedule was created, such as a drastic
16 difference in the cost of operating a bus based on its length, have not come to fruition, and
17 the schedule does not take into consideration that costs from year to year can vary greatly
18 since materials such as tires may be replaced in a given year but may not be replaced again
19 for some time; and

1 WHEREAS, many school bus operators are being asked to drive for extracurricular
2 activities such as weekend athletic events in addition to their regular school routes, which
3 puts additional wear and tear on the buses; and

4 WHEREAS, bus operators often retire with a retirement benefit that places them
5 below federal poverty line, even after decades of service; and

6 WHEREAS, many school bus operators have expressed an urgent need for the
7 compensation schedule to be studied and for an updated methodology to be developed in
8 order to provide accurate compensation for costs incurred.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
11 compensation schedule for school bus operators and to submit a written report of its findings
12 and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House
13 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days
14 prior to the beginning of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that issues the state board shall study include but
16 need not be limited to an examination of whether the compensation schedule appropriately
17 contemplates the cost of driving for extracurricular activities in addition to regular school
18 routes.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when conducting the study, the state board shall
20 consider input from school bus operators through the collection of public comments.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
23 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 20 Engrossed

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Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study the compensation schedule for school bus operators and submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of 2021 R.S.