

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE