

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATORS ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD AND WHITE

BESE. Requests BESE to adopt adjustments to the MFP formula to ensure that school districts impacted by Hurricane Laura do not lose funding during the 2020-2021 fiscal year due to decreases in student enrollment.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt
3 adjustments to the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula to ensure that
4 school districts impacted by Hurricane Laura do not lose MFP funding during the
5 2020-2021 fiscal year due to decreases in student enrollment.

6 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana requires that the legislature provide for
7 the education of the people of the state and further requires that the legislature establish and
8 maintain a public educational system; and

9 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has the
10 constitutional responsibility of annually developing, adopting, and submitting to the
11 legislature for its approval and funding a formula to be used to determine the cost of a
12 minimum foundation program of education in all public elementary and secondary schools
13 as well as to equitably allocate the funds to local school systems; and

14 WHEREAS, the legislature may not amend the formula that is adopted by the board
15 and submitted to the legislature for its consideration but may only return an unsatisfactory
16 formula to the board, along with recommendations to the board for an amended formula; and

17 WHEREAS, on August 26, 2020, Hurricane Laura, the strongest hurricane on record
18 to hit Louisiana, slammed ashore and caused immense damage from the southern coast to

1 the northern border of the state; and

2 WHEREAS, the storm wreaked havoc in the areas it crossed, downing power lines,
3 destroying basic infrastructure, and leaving the homes of many uninhabitable; and

4 WHEREAS, the destruction has caused many citizens to relocate until their homes
5 can be rebuilt; and

6 WHEREAS, the facilities of many schools were severely damaged or destroyed, thus
7 interrupting educational services; and

8 WHEREAS, the MFP formula calculates payments to schools based on their student
9 enrollment; and

10 WHEREAS, the displacement of students from the storm will likely negatively
11 impact many of the school districts affected by Hurricane Laura and, at a minimum, these
12 parishes should be held harmless for the loss of students during the 2020-2021 fiscal year
13 and receive their full MFP allocation.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt
16 adjustments to the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula to ensure that school
17 districts impacted by Hurricane Laura do not lose MFP funding during the 2020-2021 fiscal
18 year due to decreases in student enrollment.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the adjustments to the MFP formula, at a
20 minimum, hold the impacted districts in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu,
21 Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches,
22 Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, and Winn parishes
23 harmless for the loss of students due to Hurricane Laura.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the adjustments to the MFP formula adopted by
25 BESE be submitted to the legislature by October 15, 2020.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
28 superintendent of education.

The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl M. Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jeanne Johnston.

DIGEST

SCR 6 Engrossed

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Abraham

Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt adjustments to the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula to ensure that school districts impacted by Hurricane Laura do not lose MFP funding during the 2020-2021 fiscal year due to decreases in student enrollment.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Deletes requirement that BESE hold a "special" meeting to adopt adjustments to the MFP formula.