

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education and the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to identify solutions and resources necessary to install water bottle filling stations during new construction and renovation projects at public elementary and secondary schools.

WHEREAS, adequate water consumption has a positive impact on students' cognitive performance, particularly short-term memory; drinking water can also improve visual attention and fine motor skills; and

WHEREAS, proper hydration plays an important role in maintaining a child's overall health by supporting muscles, joints, tissue, and the digestive system; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the National Sanitation Foundation International found there were more germs found on an average classroom water fountain spigot than there were on a toilet seat; amidst a global pandemic, personal water bottles and water bottle filling stations may help reduce the spread of germs and disease, while also promoting water consumption among Louisiana youth; and

WHEREAS, access to clean drinking water in schools varies based on many factors; all students, regardless of grade level, socioeconomic status, or geographic area deserve to attend a school that provides such a resource at no cost; and

WHEREAS, water bottle filling stations would provide a safe alternative to a water fountain, allow for social distancing, and increase access to water for public school students, teachers, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the cost of installing a station is comparable, if not less expensive, than the cost of installing a water fountain; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parish school system recently took the initiative to install water bottle filling stations in all schools scheduled to undergo renovations or construction; other school systems throughout Louisiana are currently considering similar moves.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education and the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to identify solutions and resources necessary to install water bottle filling stations during new construction and renovation projects at public elementary and secondary schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education and the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council shall conduct an analysis of the cost of installing water bottle filling stations versus traditional water fountains, including but not limited to the cost of new construction and retrofitting existing water fountains into water bottle filling stations and include such analysis in a report to be submitted to the House Committee on Education and House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than 60 days prior to the 2021 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education and the administrator of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES