

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR MIZELL

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Requests the state Department of Education to study the education and training requirements, compensation, and employment turnover rates of early childhood care and education teachers.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to study the education and training
3 requirements, compensation, and employment turnover rates of early childhood care
4 and education teachers and the implications of the data surrounding these issues on
5 child outcomes in Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, through enactment of the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act, the
7 Early Childhood Care and Education Network, and the School Readiness Tax Credit
8 Program, the legislature recognizes that the benefits of quality child care are indisputable
9 and that a strong connection exists between a child's early learning experiences and readiness
10 to enter kindergarten and ultimate academic success; and

11 WHEREAS, eighty percent of brain development takes place before the age of three
12 and ninety percent by age four; and

13 WHEREAS, children who start school behind generally stay behind, and more than
14 fifty-five percent of Louisiana's children entered kindergarten below grade level in literacy
15 in the 2019-2020 school year; and

16 WHEREAS, two out of three young children in Louisiana have both parents or their
17 single parent in the workforce, necessitating that the child be cared for by someone other
18 than a parent for the majority of the day; and

1 WHEREAS, the cost of child care in Louisiana has risen twelve percent over the past
2 three years and currently costs almost as much as tuition at a public college or university;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, breakdowns in the provision of child care have significant impacts on
5 parents' ability to work and impair the business community's access to a reliable workforce;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, studies estimate the annual loss attributable to child care breakdowns
8 to Louisiana's pre-COVID economy at \$1.1 billion a year; and

9 WHEREAS, although the state has made sweeping reforms to early child care and
10 education, a teacher in a Type I or Type II early learning center and an assistant teacher in
11 a Type III early learning center is not required to have even a high school diploma to be
12 qualified to teach under current licensing regulations; and

13 WHEREAS, national data indicates that, despite the high child care costs borne by
14 parents, the median wage for child care workers in Louisiana in 2019 was \$9.13 an hour,
15 which is less than half of the average kindergarten teacher's salary; and

16 WHEREAS, the turnover rate among early child care and education teachers reduces
17 the continuity of care for children and causes logistical, business issues for providers; and

18 WHEREAS, specific data on the education, training, compensation, and employment
19 turnover rates of early child care and education teachers in Louisiana is not easily or readily
20 available.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study the education and
23 training requirements, compensation, and employment turnover rates of early childhood care
24 and education teachers and the implications of the data surrounding these issues on child
25 outcomes in Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education collaborate
27 with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Louisiana Workforce
28 Commission, the Board of Regents, relevant stakeholder groups, and research organizations
29 to study these issues, including an analysis of the following data and information:

- 30 (1) The education levels, compensation, and employment turnover rates of early

1 child care and education teachers of children from birth through age four in
2 Louisiana as compared to other states.

3 (2) A comparison of the compensation of Louisiana's early child care and
4 education teachers with similar professions in the state.

5 (3) The costs of early child care and education to parents of children from birth
6 to age four in Louisiana as compared to other states.

7 (4) Information on how other states or cities have endeavored to increase pay for
8 early child care and education teachers and the effectiveness of those
9 initiatives.

10 (5) Any other data or information the department deems pertinent and relevant.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education submit a
12 written report of its findings, including recommendations, to the Senate Committee on
13 Education, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International
14 Affairs, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
15 Education by February 1, 2021.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
18 superintendent of education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

SR 29 Original

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Requires a written report to the Senate committees on education, commerce, consumer protection, and international affairs, and finance and to BESE by February 1, 2021.