HLS 21RS-1091 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

HEALTH/CHILDREN: Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and report to the legislature best practices for use of digital devices in school classrooms

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation
3	with the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, to study best
4	practices for the use of digital devices in school classrooms and to report findings of
5	the study to the legislative committees on education and the legislative committees
6	on health and welfare.
7	WHEREAS, it is the public policy of this state to protect the health and safety of
8	children while they are in school; and
9	WHEREAS, schools have become increasingly reliant upon student use of digital
10	devices in learning, which affords opportunities for innovation in the delivery of instruction
11	but also poses a risk to students' health; and
12	WHEREAS, health and safety hazards associated with the use of computers and other
13	digital devices are well-documented; and
14	WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States
15	Department of Labor offers resources on safe use of computer workstations for adults in
16	places of employment; however, the federal government has issued no comparable health
17	and safety guidance relating to use of digital devices by children in school classrooms, and
18	Louisiana, along with the overwhelming majority of U.S. states, does not currently address
19	this specific issue in law, regulation, or other policy; and

1 WHEREAS, "screen time" can have harmful effects on children's health, particularly 2 with respect to eye health among younger children; and 3 WHEREAS, the increasing amount of screen time occurring in school classrooms 4 is a public health concern that merits serious consideration by this state's policymaking board 5 for elementary and secondary education and the legislature. 6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation 7 8 with the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, to study best 9 practices for the use of digital devices in school classrooms. 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary 11 Education shall report findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the House 12 Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on 13 Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter 14 Legislative Research Library no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2022 15 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana. 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, the state 18 superintendent of education, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the 19 assistant secretary of the office of public health.

## 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 56 Original

2021 Regular Session

Freeman

Urges and requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in consultation with the office of public health of the La. Department of Health, to study best practices for the use of digital devices in school classrooms.

Requires BESE to report findings of the study to the legislative committees on education and the legislative committees on health and welfare no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2022 R.S.