HLS 21RS-1091 ENGROSSED

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

HEALTH/CHILDREN: Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education study health and safety best practices for use of school-issued digital devices

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	health and safety practices for the use of school-issued digital devices and to report
5	findings of the study to the legislative committees on education and the legislative
6	committees 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 or using school equipment; 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

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1 Louisiana, along with the overwhelming majority of U.S. states, does not currently address

- 2 this specific issue in law, regulation, or other policy; and
- WHEREAS, the use of school-issued digital devices can have harmful effects on
- 4 children's health, particularly with respect to obesity, muscle and bone development, sleep
- 5 patterns, and eye health; and
- WHEREAS, the increasing amount of digital device use required by schools is a
- 7 public health concern that merits serious consideration by this state's policymaking board
- 8 for elementary and secondary education and the legislature.
- 9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation
- with the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, to study best health
- and safety practices for the use of school-issued digital devices.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
- 14 Education shall report findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the House
- 15 Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on
- Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter
- 17 Legislative Research Library no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2022
- 18 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 20 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state
- 21 superintendent of education, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the
- 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)]

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Freeman

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in consultation with the office of public health of the La. Department of Health, to study best health and safety practices for the use of school-issued digital devices.

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

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Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Education</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution:

1. Specify that best practices studied be health and safety best practices and that the study be relative to school-issued digital devices rather than digital devices in classrooms.