

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a study of processes used to collect, investigate, track, monitor, and disclose complaints and deficiencies relative to child care providers and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, present law provides for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's creation of a network through which to manage and oversee all publicly funded programs that provide early childhood care or educational services; and

WHEREAS, there are different types of child care providers that receive public funds, which subjects them to laws requiring them to be either licensed by or registered with the state; and

WHEREAS, both early learning centers, which are licensed by the state, and child care providers in home settings (known as family child care providers and in-home providers), which are registered by the state, are subject to inspection by the state Department of Education and must meet certain safety standards; and

WHEREAS, safety is of paramount concern to parents when selecting child care providers; and

WHEREAS, there is some concern that child care provider information relative to complaints and deficiencies that pertain to threats to children's health, safety, and well-being is not readily available to parents when making child care decisions; even if posted online by the department, some parents have trouble locating the information; and

WHEREAS, incomplete information on complaints and deficiencies, as well as information that is difficult to find, prevents parents from making informed decisions when selecting child care providers; and

WHEREAS, every effort should be made to effectively and efficiently collect, investigate, track, and monitor complaints and deficiencies relative to child care providers and to make this information available to parents in the most transparent, user-friendly manner possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a study of processes used to collect, investigate, track, monitor, and disclose complaints and deficiencies relative to child care providers and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board shall study and report relative to the following:

(1) The processes used to collect, track, and monitor complaints relative to child care providers, including whether or not complaints are consistently documented, centrally tracked, and timely investigated.

(2) The process of conducting inspections and dealing with deficiencies noted during inspections, including whether or not inspections are conducted frequently enough to ensure the safety of children.

(3) How best to disclose information about complaints and deficiencies in a way that allows parents to readily access this information.

(4) Best practices from other states relative to these processes.

(5) Any other issues the board deems pertinent to this study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include early learning centers, family child care providers, and in-home providers.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE