

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 190

BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to develop a written plan for the implementation and administration of a statewide education savings account program and to submit a copy of the plan to the House Committee on Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has established programs that enable parents to enroll their children in the elementary or secondary school that best meets their individual needs; and

WHEREAS, through the Course Choice program, the state has supported students in accessing secondary courses not offered at their high schools; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has supported parents in saving for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education through individual savings accounts that enable them to direct funds to institutions of their choice; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 85 of the 2021 Regular Session empowers parents to access funds to support early literacy and reading supports and interventions provided by authorized providers; and

WHEREAS, several states have authorized programs to enable parents of school-age children to receive a deposit of public funds into a state-authorized education savings account and to use those funds for tuition, tutoring, educational therapies, virtual education, and early college courses; and

WHEREAS, these can serve as models for this state in terms of implementing and administering such a program in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to develop a written plan for the implementation and administration of a statewide education savings account program through which state funding is provided for eligible students to receive authorized educational services from approved providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such plan shall provide for the program to begin not later than the 2022-2023 school year and provide for eligibility for each student who meets at least one of the following criteria:

(1) He has a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty military service member.

(2) He has a parent or legal guardian who submitted an enrollment request for an interdistrict or intradistrict transfer pursuant to R.S. 17:4035.1 during the most recent transfer request period and the request was denied.

(3) Pursuant to foster care placement through the Department of Children and Family Services, he is residing with a prospective permanent placement or has achieved permanency through adoption or permanent guardianship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the plan, the department shall seek to maximize efficiencies through the use of existing processes used to administer and implement current school choice programs that involve the use of state-approved educational service providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the plan be transmitted to the House Committee on Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES