

1 opportunities for educators and others interested in educating pupils to form, operate, or be
2 employed within a charter school with each such school designed to accomplish one or more
3 of the following objectives:

4 (a) Improve pupil learning and, in general, the public school system;

5 (b) Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education for pupils;

6 (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods and a variety of
7 governance, management, and administrative structures;

8 (d) Require appropriate assessment and measurement of academic learning results;

9 (e) Account better and more thoroughly for educational results;

10 (f) Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school employees,
11 including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site; and

12 WHEREAS, R.S. 24:177 states in part, "*the text of a law is the best evidence of*
13 *legislative intent*"; and

14 WHEREAS, the law was amended in 1997 to allow the State Board of Elementary
15 and Secondary Education and local public school boards to be chartering authorities; and

16 WHEREAS, the law currently authorizes six types of charter schools throughout the
17 state; and

18 WHEREAS, Type 1, Type 3, and Type 3B charter schools are authorized by local
19 school boards; and

20 WHEREAS, Type 2, Type 4, and Type 5 charter schools are authorized by the state
21 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); and

22 WHEREAS, in 2008, BESE promulgated "Part CXXXIX. Bulletin 126-Charter
23 Schools" §105 Purpose of Charter Schools, in Louisiana Register 34:1358 (July 2008); and

24 WHEREAS, Paragraph C of §105 states "*the charter school law expresses the*
25 *intention of the legislature that the best interests of economically-disadvantage pupils shall*
26 *be the overriding consideration in implementing the provisions of the law.*"; and

27 WHEREAS, in Paragraphs A, B, and D of Bulletin 126-Charter Schools §105, the
28 language found in R.S. 17:3972 was intentionally altered to purposely change the statement
29 of legislative intent and purpose of the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law; and

30 WHEREAS, unintended consequences and adverse effects have resulted for

1 Louisiana's children in school districts most affected by the intentional alteration of the
2 legislative intent and purpose of the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law; and

3 WHEREAS, several legislative instruments have been introduced over the years that
4 addressed issues and concerns presented by the intent and purpose of the Charter School
5 Demonstration Programs Law; and

6 WHEREAS, those issues and concerns are more pressing today and need to be
7 addressed to clarify the specific intent and purpose of the legislature in enacting the Charter
8 School Demonstration Programs Law.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10 establish and provide for the Task Force on Charter School Demonstration Programs Law
11 to study and to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation,
12 by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library
13 as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than January 5, 2024.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its duties the task force shall:

15 (1) Clarify which state entity drafted the language altering the legislature's stated
16 intent and purpose contained in R.S. 17:3972.

17 (2) Address the process used by BESE to approve the alteration of the language
18 contained in R.S. 17:3972 and to promulgate an illegal rule, §105 Purpose of Charter
19 Schools, in Louisiana Register 34:1358 (July 2008).

20 (3) Address the impact of the intentional alteration of the Charter Demonstration
21 Programs Law on the most affected school districts and their students.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Senate
23 Committee on Education.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
25 members:

26 (1) The president of the Senate or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman of
27 the task force.

28 (2) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.

29 (3) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.

30 (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.

1 (5) The president of BESE or his designee.

2 (6) The superintendent of the Department of Education or his designee.

3 (7) The president of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents or his
4 designee.

5 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools or
6 his designee.

7 (9) The president of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers or his designee.

8 (10) The president of the Louisiana Association of Educators or his designee.

9 (11) The president of the Orleans Parish School Board.

10 (12) The president of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each ex officio member who is allowed a
12 designee shall submit the name of the designee to the task force to the secretary of the Senate
13 no later than July 15, 2023.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than August 1, 2023, the chairman of
15 the task force shall convene the first meeting of the task force. At the first meeting, the
16 members may elect a vice chairman and other officers as the task force may deem
17 appropriate.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the
19 Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subjected to
20 the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
22 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
23 affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
25 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be
26 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
28 submission of its report or January 5, 2024, whichever occurs first.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state

