

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 192

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Requests that the state Department of Education revise the proposed early learning and development standards and submit its version to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for consideration

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to revise the proposed early learning
3 and development standards and to submit its version of the standards to the State
4 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for consideration.

5 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) gave
6 notice of its intention to adopt a proposed rule revising Part CLIX of Title 28 of the
7 Louisiana Administrative Code, commonly known as Bulletin 136, through a Notice of
8 Intent published in the October 2022 edition of the *Louisiana Register*; and

9 WHEREAS, in the Notice of Intent, BESE proposed that the revisions would replace
10 existing standards and "provide Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), a set
11 of common, developmentally-appropriate expectations for what children typically know,
12 understand, and are able to perform at different stages of early childhood"; and

13 WHEREAS, BESE received requests for a public hearing regarding the Notice of
14 Intent and held the hearing on November 28, 2022, during which both proponents and
15 opponents of the proposed standards provided testimony; and

16 WHEREAS, on December 21, 2022, BESE submitted its second report to the
17 legislature, which included a copy of the Notice of Intent, the public hearing certification,
18 and a summary of the public comments and agency response; and

1 WHEREAS, of the eight domains contained in the standards, there was particular
2 public interest in the proposed standards contained in the "social and emotional
3 development" domain contained in Section 303; and

4 WHEREAS, some members of the public and some legislators expressed concern
5 that these standards were proposed without sufficient input from stakeholders, including
6 parents and educators, and that as a result, the standards may not accurately reflect the needs
7 and concerns of those affected by them; and

8 WHEREAS, in December of 2022, BESE approved reopening an online comment
9 portal in order to receive further public comments on the proposed standards and also
10 approved the submission of the rule for publication in the February edition of the *Louisiana*
11 *Register*; and

12 WHEREAS, in January of 2023, BESE approved halting the publication of the rule
13 in the February edition of the *Louisiana Register* as previously approved in order for the
14 standards review committee to revisit and possibly revise the standards while taking
15 additional public comment and concerns into consideration; and

16 WHEREAS, the review committee held continued discussions and received
17 additional public testimony on the standards at meetings held in the spring of 2023; and

18 WHEREAS, at the meeting of BESE's Academic Goals and Instructional
19 Improvement Committee on March 7, 2023, the chair of the review committee presented an
20 update on the ongoing work of the review committee; and

21 WHEREAS, at this meeting, the public comments included a request that BESE
22 direct the state Department of Education to revise the proposed standards and present its
23 version of the standards to BESE for consideration; this was the favored approach by some
24 legislators and members of the public due to the repeated absence of a quorum at review
25 committee meetings called on February 8, March 2, and March 15, 2023; and

26 WHEREAS, on May 11, 2023, the review committee met and, with a quorum
27 present, voted to make only a few insignificant changes in the social and emotional
28 development domain despite the numerous comments submitted relative to this domain; and

29 WHEREAS, eighty-two percent of the five hundred ninety-nine unique individuals
30 who submitted comments in the online portal specifically addressed the social and emotional

1 development domain, and ninety-two percent of the commenters who identified as a family
2 member voiced concerns with this domain; and

3 WHEREAS, many parents have expressed frustration that the review committee
4 failed to address their legitimate concerns.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
6 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to
7 revise the proposed early learning and development standards, taking into consideration
8 public comments and concerns, and submit its version of the standards to the State Board
9 of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for consideration.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's submission of its version of the
11 standards be done in a time frame that allows BESE's consideration of the department's
12 version to occur at the board's next regularly scheduled meeting following the adoption of
13 this Resolution.

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

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)]

HR 192 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

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Requests that the state Dept. of Education revise the proposed early learning and development standards and submit its version of the standards to the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education for consideration at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the adoption of this Resolution.