

1 of the student population, it provides that this requirement would "not apply to schools
2 capable of providing resources and assistance to students through an alternate structure",
3 which some may interpret as a loophole that allows secondary schools the option of not
4 having a library or any librarians at all; and

5 WHEREAS, school librarians play an indispensable role in schools throughout the
6 state by providing vital educational services to students at every grade level that equip them
7 to succeed in the twenty-first century learning environment; and

8 WHEREAS, school librarians design and carefully curate well-rounded collections
9 of print and nonprint materials that are tailored specifically to support each school's
10 curriculum, and they provide expert instruction to students on effectively accessing,
11 evaluating, and utilizing information technologies for educational purposes; and

12 WHEREAS, school librarians cultivate learning opportunities that enable students
13 to become proficient in their pursuit of information and educate students in terms of
14 developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that are essential for college and
15 career readiness and for citizenship and life; and

16 WHEREAS, beyond their key curricular role, school libraries give each member of
17 a school's learning community a venue for fostering lifelong learning and literacy; and

18 WHEREAS, ultimately, it is in a library, more so than in a classroom, where a child
19 learns to seek an answer to his or her own question—a skill that transcends the formal
20 education environment and serves the individual throughout his or her life, and an education
21 that does not nurture this skill is not a complete education; and

22 WHEREAS, all students need and deserve quality school libraries run by qualified
23 school librarians, and students who have access to school libraries that are well staffed and
24 well stocked are more likely to succeed in school and in life; and

25 WHEREAS, it is critical that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
26 Education reconsider the proposed revisions to policy pertaining to school libraries lest it
27 should fail to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal
28 opportunity to develop to his full potential.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
30 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to reconsider

1 proposed changes to The Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators relative to school
2 libraries.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state
5 superintendent of education, and the state librarian of Louisiana.

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)]

Norton

HCR No. 69

Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education reconsider proposed changes to The Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators relative to school libraries.