

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Directs the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Family Services to develop an operational plan for the transfer of the Child Care Development Fund to the Department of Education.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Family Services
3 to develop an operational plan for the transfer of the Child Care Development Fund
4 to the Department of Education.

5 WHEREAS, it is imperative that early childhood programs promote kindergarten
6 readiness and sustain lifelong learning and achievement to significantly improve Louisiana
7 child outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, publicly-funded early childhood programs should prioritize
9 kindergarten readiness and public monies should fund programs that excel at achieving high
10 levels of kindergarten readiness, or progression towards kindergarten readiness; and

11 WHEREAS, parents who choose to send their children to publicly-funded early
12 childhood programs should have clear, actionable information on the quality of the program
13 available; and

14 WHEREAS, providers of publicly-funded early childhood programs should be held
15 accountable for the public monies they receive, but given the autonomy to implement an
16 educational program that promotes and achieves kindergarten readiness without undue
17 regulation; and

18 WHEREAS, state entities involved in the oversight or provision of early childhood

1 programs should collaborate and integrate processes to the fullest extent possible, set
2 standards for child development and educational achievement for young children that align
3 with standards established for children enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve, and
4 administer early childhood programs in such a way that ensures the safety, welfare and
5 healthy development of children; and

6 WHEREAS, Act 3, known as the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act, of the
7 2012 Regular Legislative Session directed the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
8 Education to create a comprehensive and integrated network through which to manage and
9 oversee all programs funded through state or federal resources that provide early childhood
10 care or educational services; and

11 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved a
12 framework to implement the Early Childhood Care and Education Network which was
13 developed in collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services,
14 Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Early Childhood Advisory Council,
15 Nonpublic Schools Council and the Child Care Association of Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, the framework to implement the Early Childhood Care and Education
17 Network included the following:

18 (a) fair and transparent outcome-based rating system, including letter grades, that
19 rewards high performing programs and intervenes in persistently under-performing
20 programs;

21 (b) funding based on performance and demand that ensures all parents, regardless
22 of income, have access to higher quality programs that prepare their child for success in
23 school;

24 (c) clear and easy-to-understand information that allows families to make informed
25 decisions about what program is best for their young children; and

26 (d) resources and support to improve the quality of care and instruction to ensure all
27 students have access to effective early childhood professionals; and

28 WHEREAS, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of
29 Children and Family Services, will launch pilot programs during the 2013-2014 fiscal year
30 to test various strategies in practice and use results to fine-tune the use of child and program

1 assessments, coordinate funding at the local level, evaluate the use of new licensing
2 standards and the new Birth–Five Standards, as well as collect consolidated data from the
3 Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Health and Hospitals, and the
4 Department of Education; and

5 WHEREAS, this work will inform continued integration efforts among state agencies
6 needed to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Early Childhood Care and Education
7 Network, support to child care providers, and appropriate oversight.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 direct the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Family Services to
10 develop an operational plan for the transfer of the Child Care Development Fund lead
11 agency authority and associated functions to the Department of Education no later than July
12 1, 2015, and submit such plan to the House and Senate Committees on Education and Health
13 and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

Walsworth

SCR No. 76

Directs the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Family Services to develop an operational plan for the transfer of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) lead agency authority and associated functions to the Department of Education no later than July 1, 2015, and submit such plan to the House and Senate Committees on Education and Health and Welfare no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session.