

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARTER AND ALFRED WILLIAMS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility and advisability of pursuing a residential charter school model in Louisiana, including identification of potential sources of funding for residential charter schools such as the Minimum Foundation Program or other state, local, and federal funding sources, and to submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that the "goal of the public educational system is to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential"; and

WHEREAS, a parent should be able to choose the educational environment that will provide his or her child the best opportunity to achieve and that will most appropriately meet the child's individual needs; and

WHEREAS, some at-risk youth have behavioral and social challenges that cannot be adequately addressed during the school day and hamper their academic progress; and

WHEREAS, some children live in dangerous environments where the temptations of drugs, violence, and other destructive behaviors are difficult to resist and where family support may be limited; and

WHEREAS, residential charter schools have recently become an option in some communities across the nation for providing a rigorous education as well as a safe and nurturing environment for disadvantaged children; and

WHEREAS, residential charter schools can provide extended services, comprehensive supports, and individual attention to meet the unique academic and behavioral needs of each student; and

WHEREAS, residential charter schools can provide a highly structured environment so that students can feel safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, residential charter schools around the nation have achieved positive student outcomes and have graduated between ninety and ninety-five percent of their students; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:3973(2)(a) provides that nothing in the chapter of law providing relative to charter schools shall be construed to prohibit a Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, or Type 4 charter school from having a residential component.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility and advisability of pursuing a residential charter school model in Louisiana, including identification of potential sources of funding for residential charter schools such as the Minimum Foundation Program or other state, local, and federal funding sources, and to submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE