HLS 13RS-3452 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study the feasibility of implementing a 100-point scale for performance score ranges used to assign school and district letter grades

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the
3	feasibility of implementing a one hundred point scale for performance score ranges
4	used to assign school and district letter grades for purposes of the school and district
5	accountability system and to submit a written report of findings and
6	recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee
7	on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular
8	Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
9	WHEREAS, current law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
10	Education (BESE) to provide for a statewide school and district accountability system based
11	on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of schools; and
12	WHEREAS, current law further provides that this system shall include, at a
13	minimum, clear and appropriate standards for schools and districts, indicators for the
14	assessment of schools and school districts, student achievement baselines, student growth
15	targets, and minimum levels of student achievement for each public school and district,
16	rewards and corrective actions, intervals for assessment and reassessment, a review process
17	for evaluating growth targets, and technical assistance; and
18	WHEREAS, current law also provides that this system shall be based, in part, on
19	growth in student achievement using a value-added assessment model as determined by

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2 and districts; and 3 WHEREAS, BESE policy provides for a one hundred fifty point scale used to align 4 school and district performance scores with corresponding letter grades, as follows: a 5 performance score of 100-150 is an "A", a score of 85-99.9 is a "B", a score of 70-84.9 is a 6 "C", a score of 50-69.9 is a "D", and any score below 50 is an "F"; and 7 WHEREAS, meanwhile, for students in grades kindergarten through twelve, BESE 8 policy provides for a uniform grading scale that is based on a one hundred point scale, as 9 follows: a grade of 93-100 is an "A", a grade of 85-92 is a "B", a grade of 75-84 is a "C", a 10 grade of 67-74 is a "D", and a grade of 0-66 is an "F"; and 11 WHEREAS, this uniform grading scale is familiar and generally understood by 12 students, parents, and the general public; however, some have expressed concern that many 13 people are confused by the one hundred fifty point accountability scale; and 14 WHEREAS, using a one hundred point scale, to which many have grown accustomed 15 through its widespread use for students' grades, for the performance score scale on which 16 school and district letter grades are based may lead to greater transparency and a clearer 17 understanding of how schools and districts are actually performing; and 18 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary 19 Education evaluate the feasibility of implementing a one hundred point scale for purposes 20 of the school and district accountability system in the effort to make school and district 21 performance scores and letter grades more easily understandable by students, parents, and 22 the general public. 23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 24 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the 25 feasibility of implementing a one hundred point scale for performance score ranges used to 26 assign school and district letter grades through the school and district accountability system 27 and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations 28 for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate 29 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular 30 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BESE and requires the assignment of letter grades based on performance scores to schools

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 2 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state
- 3 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)]

Barrow HCR No. 161

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study the feasibility of implementing a 100 point scale for performance score ranges used to assign school and district letter grades and submit a report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation, to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days before the 2014 R.S.