

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 166

BY REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN AND SENATORS THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility of offering students pursuing a career diploma the option of fulfilling the eleventh grade statewide testing requirement by taking the American College Test (ACT) WorkKeys assessment instead of the ACT and to submit a written report of 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 states that it is the goal of the public educational system 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, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy provides that each eleventh grade student, with the exception of certain students with exceptionalities, shall be required to take the ACT; and

WHEREAS, this requirement applies to students regardless of what type of high school diploma they are pursuing; and

WHEREAS, the policy provides for four indicators, each comprising twenty-five percent of a high school's School Performance Score; and

WHEREAS, one of these indicators is the ACT scores of eleventh grade students; and

WHEREAS, there are some who feel that students who are pursuing a career diploma should be allowed the option of an alternative assessment instrument, one that is aligned with their course of study and their career goals and plans; and

WHEREAS, the ACT WorkKeys system is a job skills assessment system measuring "real world" skills that employers believe are critical to job success; and

WHEREAS, educators can use ACT WorkKeys to assess whether students are gaining the foundational skills necessary for success in the workplace and to identify training and study changes; and

WHEREAS, ACT WorkKeys helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain a high-performance workforce and could be an appropriate assessment for Louisiana students on the career diploma path; and

WHEREAS, current law enacted by the legislature in 2010 provides that ACT WorkKeys may be used as an alternative requirement for students graduating from high school to qualify for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Tech Award; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that a thorough study be conducted to determine the feasibility of allowing students pursuing a career diploma the option of taking ACT WorkKeys instead of the ACT to satisfy the eleventh grade state testing requirement.

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 of offering students pursuing a career diploma the option of fulfilling the eleventh grade statewide testing requirement by taking ACT WorkKeys instead of the ACT and to submit a written report of 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 in conducting the study, the board shall consider and examine all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations including but not limited to applicable requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and determine the feasibility of amending the state's ESEA flexibility request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE