

1 WHEREAS, any examination of the current state of public education in Louisiana
2 must include an appraisal of the requirements that school systems must meet in order to
3 comply with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations; and

4 WHEREAS, school board members have expressed grave concern over the onerous
5 burden of various requirements that school systems must meet that have either lost funding
6 or were never funded in the first place; these requirements are commonly known as
7 "unfunded mandates"; and

8 WHEREAS, unfunded mandates cited by school boards and superintendents include
9 but are not limited to those related to dual enrollment, summer remediation for students who
10 fail high stakes tests, professional development, national board certification stipends,
11 extended sick leave, transportation for nonpublic school students, and technology upgrades
12 needed for online assessments; and

13 WHEREAS, meanwhile, the minimum foundation program formula's annual 2.75%
14 growth factor has been frozen since the end of Fiscal Year 2008-2009; without this growth
15 factor, the economic strain placed on school systems has only been exacerbated; and

16 WHEREAS, school systems are struggling to administer required programs and
17 services, and the effect of unfunded mandates on them is considered by many to be
18 catastrophic and ultimately unsustainable; and

19 WHEREAS, steps must be taken to lessen the financial burden placed on school
20 systems, which means that difficult decisions about these unfunded mandates must be made
21 in order to maintain the quality of education provided in this state and school systems'
22 financial stability; and

23 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the legislature, along with education
24 stakeholders, to address unfunded mandates and their effect on school systems throughout
25 the state, and it is critical that unfunded mandates be identified and decisions made as to
26 which of them may be funded, modified, or eliminated; and

27 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
28 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is necessary and appropriate
29 that the impact of unfunded mandates on school systems receive a thorough evaluation.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Education
3 to study and make recommendations with respect to unfunded mandates imposed on local
4 school systems.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may request and receive
6 assistance, information, and testimony from parties the committee deems appropriate,
7 including but not limited to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
8 state Department of Education, the Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana
9 Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana Association of School Executives, the
10 Louisiana Association of Principals, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the Louisiana
11 Association of Educators, and Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings and
13 conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the
14 speaker of the House of Representatives not later than sixty days prior to the convening of
15 the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature 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)]

Schroder

HR No. 161

Requests that the House Committee on Education study and make recommendations with respect to unfunded mandates imposed on local school systems and report findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation, to the speaker of the House of Representatives at least 60 days before the 2014 R.S.