Regular Session, 2013

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 161

# BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHRODER AND HAVARD

# COMMITTEE STUDIES: Request that the House Committee on Education study and make recommendations with respect to unfunded mandates imposed on school systems

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the House Committee on Education to study and make
3	recommendations with respect to unfunded mandates imposed on local school
4	systems and to report findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for
5	legislation relative to the issue, to the speaker of the House of Representatives not
6	later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session of the
7	Legislature of Louisiana.
8	WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public
9	educational system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human
10	development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every
11	individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and
12	WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that no law requiring increased
13	expenditures for any purpose within a public school system shall become effective unless
14	the legislature appropriates funds for the purpose and only to the extent and amount that such
15	funds are provided, or until a law provides for a local source of revenue within the school
16	system for the purpose and the school board is authorized by ordinance or resolution to levy
17	and collect such revenue and only to the extent and amount of such revenue; the constitution
18	further provides for certain exceptions to which this prohibition does not apply; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the legislature, along with education stakeholders, to address unfunded mandates and their effect on school systems throughout the state, and it is critical that unfunded mandates be identified and decisions made as to which of them may be funded, modified, or eliminated; 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 necessary and appropriate
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, including but not limited to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the 7 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 conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the 13 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.