

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

SCHOOLS/FINANCE-MFP: Requests the House and Senate education committees jointly to study issues relative to the MFP

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
3 Education jointly to study issues relative to the minimum foundation program
4 formula and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the
5 Legislature of Louisiana not later than February 1, 2014.

6 WHEREAS, the minimum foundation program (MFP), required by the Constitution
7 of Louisiana, is the core of Louisiana's commitment to ensuring a minimum level of public
8 school funding; and

9 WHEREAS, in the 1990's the MFP changed from a cost-driven formula to one that
10 is primarily controlled by an anticipated appropriation, rather than an evaluation of the actual
11 costs of public education; and

12 WHEREAS, the MFP has been the subject of recent litigation, and there is confusion
13 over the purpose of the MFP and how the funding is intended to be used; and

14 WHEREAS, the MFP has been co-opted by other programs as a means of
15 determining charter school funding and online course provider funding, providing funds to
16 some nonpublic schools, and delivering certain state-mandated retirement funding; and

17 WHEREAS, there appears to be a lack of consistency in the understanding various
18 stakeholders have of the purpose and function of the MFP and the nature of the funding that
19 should be included within it; and

1 WHEREAS, the diversion of MFP dollars away from public school classrooms
2 causes public confusion as to how much funding the state is really providing to the actual
3 education of children.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 urge and request the House Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Education
6 jointly to study issues relative to the minimum foundation program and to submit a written
7 report of findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than
8 February 1, 2014.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the committees shall
10 consider and review:

- 11 (1) The process by which the MFP is formulated.
- 12 (2) The factors that should be included in the MFP formula.
- 13 (3) The appropriateness of including retirement costs in the MFP.
- 14 (4) The nature and extent to which the development and adoption of the MFP should
15 be subject to the Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.
- 16 (5) The feasibility of reestablishing an MFP study commission and determining
17 appropriate stakeholders to be included as members of such commission.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the committees shall
19 invite the following stakeholders to provide information:

- 20 (1) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- 21 (2) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- 22 (3) The Louisiana Association of School Executives.
- 23 (4) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- 24 (5) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- 25 (6) The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
- 26 (7) The Louisiana Department of Education.
- 27 (8) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary 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)]

Havard

HCR No. 184

Requests the House and Senate education committees jointly to study issues relative to the minimum foundation program and to report findings and recommendations to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2014. Specifies issues to be considered and reviewed in the study and groups, organizations, and agencies to be invited to provide information to the committees in conducting the study.