

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 187

BY REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana School Boards Association, and the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, to study and explore all options for providing free transportation to students attending charter schools and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

WHEREAS, though the number of charter schools in this state is increasing, many students who wish to take advantage of these types of learning venues are being denied this chance because of a lack of transportation; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, students are not able to attend due to parents' job situations and having no means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, many students who want to attend charter schools are from families who cannot afford the cost of transportation to these schools; and

WHEREAS, in some areas of the state, students are being provided free transportation to charter schools; and

WHEREAS, state law, R.S. 17:158, requires public school boards to provide free transportation to all students attending school in the parish who live more than one mile from school; and

WHEREAS, charter schools in Louisiana are public schools and receive public funds to operate; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of the state to provide a quality education for all of its children and to take all steps necessary to ensure that every student who wishes to attend a charter school is given ample opportunity to attend by developing

innovative transportation solutions that provide options for students wishing to attend such schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana School Boards Association, and the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, to study and explore all options for providing free transportation to students attending charter schools and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall consider including the costs of providing such transportation in the minimum foundation program formula proposed for the 2015-2016 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the presiding officers of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana School Boards Association, and the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE