

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARTER

TEACHERS: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Bd. of Regents and public school governing authorities, study certain issues relative to educator preparation programs

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation
3 with the Board of Regents and the governing authorities of public elementary and
4 secondary schools, to study certain issues relative to educator preparation programs
5 and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House
6 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty
7 days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature.

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana has raised expectations for student achievement so that all
9 students can successfully transition to postsecondary education and the workplace; and

10 WHEREAS, to help students succeed in the classroom and beyond, Louisiana has
11 also raised expectations for instruction, as research has long indicated that the quality of
12 classroom teaching is a major factor in increasing student achievement; and

13 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:7.1(A) provides that, in carrying out its responsibility to
14 prescribe the qualifications and provide for the certification of teachers under the authority
15 of R.S. 17:7(6), the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), subject
16 to the constitutional power and authority of the Board of Regents and the public
17 postsecondary education management boards, shall establish qualifications and requirements
18 for the approval of teacher education programs from which graduates may be certified; and

19 WHEREAS, BESE and the Board of Regents have served as a model for other states
20 by collaborating to improve educator preparation programs, develop policies and processes

1 to ensure alignment of such programs and expectations for educator certification, promote
2 increased student achievement, and drive improvement when needed; and

3 WHEREAS, BESE has established a goal for raising expectations for student
4 achievement in that Louisiana public schools are expected to have a majority of students
5 performing at a level of "Mastery" or above on standardized tests, consistent with peers in
6 other states, by 2025; and

7 WHEREAS, in order to meet this goal, Louisiana must continue to raise the quality
8 of instruction in the state's classrooms by providing every child with an effective educator;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, new educators, educator preparation program instructors, and school
11 and district administrators have reported to the state Department of Education through
12 surveys and forums that many new educators do not feel adequately prepared for the first
13 year of teaching, that educator preparation program faculty have difficulty finding
14 classrooms for student teachers, and that schools are having difficulties finding enough
15 teachers to meet demands in all subjects.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation
18 with the Board of Regents and the governing authorities of public elementary and secondary
19 schools, to study certain issues relative to educator preparation programs and submit a
20 written report of findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for related
21 legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education
22 not later than sixty days prior to the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such issues shall include but not be limited to
24 the following:

25 (1) Exploring creative options for recruiting high-performing students into the
26 teaching profession.

27 (2) Forming close partnerships between school systems and educator preparation
28 programs in order to provide school-based preparation experiences for student teachers,
29 aiming to yield graduates with the pedagogical skills necessary to advance student learning
30 and to meet workforce needs of public schools, especially in critical shortage areas.

1 (3) Analyzing educator preparation programs' admissions requirements and the
2 academic achievement of students in such programs in the effort to determine if there is a
3 correlation between a student's college grade point average upon program admission and
4 performance on the ACT or Scholastic Aptitude Test and his effectiveness as an educator.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
6 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state
7 superintendent of education, the chairman of the Board of Regents, and the commissioner
8 of higher 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)]

HCR 126 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Carter

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Bd. of Regents and public school governing authorities, study certain issues relative to educator preparation programs and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days prior to the 2016 R.S.