

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, BESE and the Board of Regents have served as a model for other states by collaborating to improve educator preparation programs, develop policies and processes to ensure alignment of such programs and expectations for educator certification, promote increased student achievement, and drive improvement when needed; and

WHEREAS, BESE has established a goal for raising expectations for student achievement in that Louisiana public schools are expected to have a majority of students

performing at a level of "Mastery" or above on standardized tests, consistent with peers in other states, by 2025; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE