2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRICE

SCHOOLS/FINANCE-MFP: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education reconvene a minimum foundation program task force to determine the actual cost of public education and identify potential funding mechanisms

1   A RESOLUTION

2   To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to reconvene

3   a minimum foundation program (MFP) task force to determine the actual cost of

4   providing public education in Louisiana and identify all potential funding

5   mechanisms to enable school systems to meet this cost and to submit a written report

6   of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later

7   than February 1, 2016.

8   WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana requires that the legislature provide for

9   the education of the people of the state and further requires that the legislature establish and

10   maintain a public education system; and

11   WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana further provides that it is the goal of the

12   public education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of

13   human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that

14   every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

15   WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has

16   the constitutional responsibility of annually developing, adopting, and submitting to the

17   legislature for its approval and funding a formula to be used to determine the cost of a

18   minimum foundation program of education in all public elementary and secondary schools

19   as well as to equitably allocate the funds to local school systems; and

1　　　WHEREAS, the constitution provides that the legislature may not amend the formula

2　　that is adopted by the board and submitted to the legislature for its consideration but may

3　　only return an unsatisfactory formula to the board along with recommendations to the board

4　　for an amended formula; and

5　　　　WHEREAS, for the purpose of providing BESE with advisory recommendations for

6　　the MFP formula for 2014-2015 and beyond, BESE formed a MFP task force that met from

7　　September of 2013 through January of 2014 and adopted several recommendations relative

8　　to the formula; and

9　　　　WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 220 of the 2014 Regular Session of the

10　　Legislature urged and requested BESE to reconvene this task force, and at its August 2014

11　　meeting, BESE authorized the reconvening of the task force to develop recommendations

12　　for the 2015-2016 MFP formula; and

13　　　　WHEREAS, the reconvened task force held its final meeting on December 16, 2014,

14　　and adopted the following recommendations: a 2.75 percent rate increase in 2015-2016 base

15　　per pupil funding; additional funding for special education; increased funding for dual

16　　enrollment and other course choices; an in-depth study of the formula, including a

17　　determination of actual costs of providing education and the formula's efficacy in meeting

18　　constitutional mandates; and consultation with administrative and legislative leadership

19　　relative to how the formula's student count is accounted for in the budget; and

20　　　　WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 of this 2015 Regular Session of

21　　the Legislature, which provided for legislative approval of the 2015-2016 MFP formula, was

22　　deferred by the Senate Committee on Education; and

23　　　　WHEREAS, many education stakeholders feel that various issues relative to the MFP

24　　formula warrant further study so that the needs of students and the school systems that

25　　educate them are sufficiently met; and

26　　　　WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every

27　　student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that there be

28　　continued study of the minimum foundation program formula so that determinations can be

29　　made as to how the state can best provide experiences and opportunities to students that help

30　　them succeed in all aspects of life.

1   THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the

2   Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and

3   Secondary Education to reconvene a minimum foundation program (MFP) task force to

4   determine the actual cost of providing public education in Louisiana and identify all

5   potential funding mechanisms to enable school systems to meet this cost and to submit a

6   written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not

7   later than February 1, 2016.

8   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force include but not

9   be limited to individuals representing BESE, the state Department of Education, the

10   Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents,

11   the Louisiana Association of School Business Officers, Council for a Better Louisiana, the

12   Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the Louisiana Association of Public Charter

13   Schools, the Louisiana Association of Educators, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, and

14   the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

15   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

16   president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state

17   superintendent of 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)]

Price   HR No. 186

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education in La. and identify all potential funding mechanisms to enable school systems to
meet this cost and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House
Committee on Education by Feb. 1, 2016.