

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY REPRESENTATIVE TIM BURNS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study issues related to the possession by students of Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices at school and on school buses and to submit a report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public educational system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:239, prohibits students, unless authorized by the school principal or his designee, from using or operating any electronic telecommunication device in public school buildings, on school grounds, and on school buses; and

WHEREAS, some parents have expressed concern over this prohibition in light of their desire to have their children carry a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking device while at school and riding on the school bus; and

WHEREAS, devices using GPS technology allow parents to track the location of their children throughout the school day and while they are being transported to and from school, and some school systems are not allowing students to possess these devices at school because of the prohibition in current law against students' use and operation of telecommunication devices at school and on school buses; and

WHEREAS, many parents feel it is their right to determine whether or not their children should be allowed to carry such devices at school and on the school bus; and

WHEREAS, student safety should be an utmost priority for the governing authority of every public school and for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and every reasonable precaution must be taken to ensure the protection of Louisiana's students; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that issues relative to students' possession of Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices at school and on school buses receive a thorough study so that determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide experiences and opportunities to all students that protect their safety and well-being and help them succeed in all aspects of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study issues related to the possession by students of Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices at school and on school buses and to submit a report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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 and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE