

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARDY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the rate of suspensions and expulsions in Louisiana and to submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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, according to a 2010 report released by the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative and Friends and Families of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children, in Louisiana, the expulsion rate is five times the national rate, and there are more than three hundred thousand out-of-school suspensions per year; the report also states that within the Recovery School District, the expulsion rate is ten times the national rate, and the suspension rate is twice the statewide rate and more than four times the national rate; and

WHEREAS, many incarcerated citizens have a history of suspensions and expulsions, and it is possible that there is a correlation; and

WHEREAS, many citizens consider the high rate of suspensions and expulsions in Louisiana to be a matter of grave concern and an issue that crosses all racial, socio-economic, and political boundaries; 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 imperative that the state's rate of suspensions and expulsions receive a thorough study so that determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide experiences and opportunities to students that 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 the rate of suspensions and expulsions in Louisiana and to submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE