

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

STUDENTS: Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) study the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding in support of students in BESE-approved home study programs

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to
3 study the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding in support of students
4 in BESE-approved home study programs and to submit a written report of its
5 findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to
6 the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
7 Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2021 Regular
8 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana's various school choice options give parents the opportunity
10 to select education opportunities that best meet their children's needs, including traditional
11 public schools, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and home study programs; and

12 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:236.1 grants the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
13 Education (BESE) the authority to approve home study programs and provides for approval
14 if the parent certifies that the program offers a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal
15 to that offered by public schools at the same grade level; and

16 WHEREAS, certain privileges are afforded to students who complete approved home
17 study programs; for example, the law provides that a high school diploma awarded by an
18 approved home study program shall be deemed to have all of the rights and privileges
19 afforded to a high school diploma awarded by a state-approved nonpublic school, and if they

1 meet certain criteria, such students are eligible for state-funded Taylor Opportunity Program
2 for Students (TOPS) awards; and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to those who have long chosen home schooling as the
4 preferred method of education for their families, the COVID-19 pandemic has led many
5 parents to choose to home school their children rather than send them to school in traditional
6 congregate settings; and

7 WHEREAS, some parents have expressed the need for financial assistance as they
8 strive to meet the educational needs of their children in a home study environment, including
9 expenses associated with curricula, instructional materials, and internet access; and

10 WHEREAS, while the Minimum Foundation Program formula is reserved to funding
11 public education, there is precedent for the state to fund certain school choice options outside
12 of the formula, such as the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program; and

13 WHEREAS, home study is a key component of school choice in Louisiana, and in
14 order to ensure that all Louisiana children have the opportunity to reach their full academic
15 potential, it is appropriate to explore the possibility of providing some form of state support
16 to financially assist those families participating in BESE-approved home study programs.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to study
19 the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding in support of students in
20 BESE-approved home study programs and to submit a written report of its findings and
21 conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the
22 House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty
23 days prior to the beginning of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include but need not be limited
25 to information on methods through which other states, if any, provide state funding in
26 support of home study programs.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
29 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)]

HCR 32 Original

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Moore

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) study the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding for students in BESE-approved home study programs and submit a written report to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the 2021 R.S.