

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENSGENS

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Requests the state Dept. of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and adopt academic standards that are rigorous and effective for all La. students

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary  
3 and Secondary Education to develop and adopt academic standards for public school  
4 students that are rigorous and effective for all students.

5 WHEREAS, academic standards are statements of what students are expected to  
6 know and be able to do at specific grade levels; and

7 WHEREAS, the establishment of academic standards is the duty and responsibility  
8 of the state Department of Education with the approval of the State Board of Elementary and  
9 Secondary Education; and

10 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:24.4(E) provides that the state Department of Education, with  
11 the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, as part of the  
12 Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program, shall develop and establish statewide  
13 content standards for required subjects to be taught in the public elementary and secondary  
14 schools of this state; and

15 WHEREAS, the law further states that the statewide content standards for required  
16 subjects shall be implemented by the state Department of Education, as approved by the  
17 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, with recommendations prior to  
18 approval and advice from the educational personnel in the public schools and colleges and  
19 universities of this state; and

1           WHEREAS, state law defines such standards as "statements that define what a  
2 student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a specific time period or grade  
3 level or at the completion of a course. Content standards shall represent the knowledge and  
4 skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the  
5 workplace, as determined by content experts, elementary and secondary educators and  
6 school leaders, postsecondary education leaders, and business and industry leaders."; and

7           WHEREAS, state law further provides that it shall be the duty and power of the State  
8 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide for and implement rigorous  
9 standards-based assessments for required subjects; and

10          WHEREAS, state law additionally and appropriately requires the state board to  
11 establish adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on such  
12 standards-based assessments; and

13          WHEREAS, it is the intention of the members of the legislature that these duties and  
14 responsibilities remain at the state level and are not delegated or relinquished to any national  
15 group or consortium or to the federal government; and

16          WHEREAS, over the past two decades, the department and the board have adopted  
17 and implemented academic standards in various subject areas; and

18          WHEREAS, less than ten years ago, several states began collaborating on the  
19 development of common state standards in mathematics and English language arts; and

20          WHEREAS, in 2009, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief  
21 State School Officers adopted the Common Core State Standards Initiative; and

22          WHEREAS, in July of 2010, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
23 Education adopted the Common Core State Standards for Louisiana to replace the state  
24 standards previously adopted and implemented by the board; and

25          WHEREAS, the members of the Legislature of Louisiana are aware of the numerous  
26 concerns that have been raised by Louisiana citizens and various groups and organizations  
27 within Louisiana regarding the adoption of the Common Core State Standards.

28          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
29 urge and request the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and

1 Secondary Education to adopt and develop academic standards for public school students  
2 that are rigorous and effective for all Louisiana students.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education and the State  
4 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are hereby urged to:

5 (1) Ensure that academic standards adopted in the future meet or exceed the rigor  
6 and effectiveness of Louisiana's current academic standards.

7 (2) Ensure that Louisiana's academic standards are adapted to the specific needs of  
8 Louisiana.

9 (3) Ensure that public schools continue to maintain absolute flexibility in the  
10 curriculum that they provide under Louisiana's proud tradition of local control.

11 (4) Consult with Louisiana parents, students, teachers, school administrators, school  
12 board members, representatives of institutions of postsecondary education, and business and  
13 community leaders before adopting any new academic standards.

14 (5) Not establish required reading lists or adopt or attempt to impose a statewide  
15 curriculum.

16 (6) Reject any attempt to subject Louisiana students to a national standardized  
17 assessment mandated by the federal government.

18 (7) Ensure that Louisiana's academic standards are not burdensome and costly to  
19 public schools.

20 (8) Ensure that Louisiana's academic standards do not result in intrusion into student  
21 and family privacy or in the collection or reporting of additional data to the federal  
22 government.

23 (9) Commit to close consultation with the House Committee on Education and the  
24 Senate Committee on Education on any action taken in the development and implementation  
25 of new academic standards.

26 (10) Amend any rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines necessary to effectuate  
27 the sentiment of the Legislature of Louisiana as expressed in this Resolution.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
29 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state  
30 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)]

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Hensgens

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