



1 the citizens be advised of and aware of the performance of public officials and the  
2 deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy"; and

3 WHEREAS, House Rule 6.9(A) of the Rules of Order of the House of  
4 Representatives provides that "No legislative instrument shall be reported by a committee  
5 unless an open, public hearing on the instrument has first been held by the committee with  
6 due notice given and opportunity provided for interested persons to appear to testify for or  
7 against the proposal"; and

8 WHEREAS, House Rule 14.32 of the Rules of Order of the House of  
9 Representatives provides that "At any time a committee holds a public hearing, whether on  
10 an instrument or other matter before the committee, opportunity to appear before the  
11 committee shall be provided to a representative number of proponents and opponents on  
12 each issue which the instrument or matter presents" and "To be certain that an opportunity  
13 is afforded all persons who desire to be heard, the chairman shall inquire at the beginning  
14 of the hearing on each matter if there are additional persons who wish to be heard other than  
15 those who have previously notified the committee. The chairman shall allot the time  
16 available for the hearing in an equitable manner among those persons who are to be heard";  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, while hundreds, if not thousands, of interested persons took time to  
19 attempt to attend and participate in the legislative committee hearings held during the week  
20 of March 12 through 16, 2012, holding the hearings during a weekday required many to be  
21 absent from their professional duties and the cessation of the school days for students in  
22 several locations throughout the state; and

23 WHEREAS, given the magnitude of the proposed changes, the number of persons  
24 that will be impacted by the enactment of such legislation, and the desire and interest of  
25 thousands to attend hearings on the proposed legislation, special consideration should be  
26 given to holding additional public hearings on such legislation, including hearings by  
27 standing committees, on days that would permit maximum public participation; and

28 WHEREAS, even though the legislature does not normally meet on Fridays,  
29 Saturdays, or Sundays, it is imperative to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage  
30 and be heard; and

1           WHEREAS, holding public hearings on such legislative measures on Fridays after  
2 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, or Sundays would accommodate and better afford an opportunity for  
3 professionals and other interested persons to attend and participate in the public hearings,  
4 would encourage rather than discourage civic participation and promote rather than limit  
5 democracy, and would minimize the impact on the operation of schools and school  
6 instruction for students.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana that the House of Representatives shall provide for additional public  
9 hearing and testimony, including hearings by standing committees of the House of  
10 Representatives, on House Bill 976 or Senate Bill 597 (school choice), House Bill 974 or  
11 Senate Bill 603 (teacher tenure), House Bill 933 or Senate Bill 581 (early childhood  
12 education), House Bill 969 (tax rebates to taxpayers who donate to certain school tuition  
13 organizations), and any other measure proposing such law and shall further provide that such  
14 hearings shall be held on Fridays after 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, or Sundays.

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#### 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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Smith

HR No. 14

Provides for additional public hearing and testimony on HB 976 or SB 597 (school choice), HB 974 or SB 603 (teacher tenure), HB 933 or SB 581 (early childhood education), HB 969 (tax rebates to taxpayers who donate to certain school tuition organizations), or any other measure proposing such law and provides that such hearings be held on Fridays after 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, or Sundays.