

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to convene a study group to examine issues relative to the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula and to submit a written report of the study group's findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana requires that the legislature provide for the education of the people of the state and further requires that the legislature establish and maintain a public educational system; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has the constitutional responsibility of annually developing, adopting, and submitting to the legislature for its approval and funding a formula to be used to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program of education in all public elementary and secondary schools as well as to equitably allocate the funds to local school systems; and

WHEREAS, the constitution provides that the legislature may not amend the formula that is adopted by the board and submitted to the legislature for its consideration but may only return an unsatisfactory formula to the board along with recommendations to the board for an amended formula; and

WHEREAS, the formula contains many detailed components which can lead to confusion and misunderstanding; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are many challenging financial issues facing local school systems in this state, including but not limited to declining enrollments, reductions in local revenues, increased retirement and health care costs, increased professional development costs, rising technology, security, and school safety costs, and implementation of new salary schedules; and

WHEREAS, many are concerned that these issues are not being adequately addressed in the development of the MFP; and

WHEREAS, in April of this year, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education began consideration of establishing an MFP advisory group and board minutes indicate that the matter will be further considered at the board's upcoming meeting in June; and

WHEREAS, the board's minutes further indicate that the board and the state Department of Education "will continue the development by engaging stakeholders, including parents, educators, administrators, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and policymakers, regarding the proposal"; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a comprehensive study be conducted relative to the MFP that includes all interested stakeholders and that addresses, at a minimum, the following issues:

- (1) How the formula components are determined and calculated.
- (2) How matters of equity are considered and handled.
- (3) How the minimum program of education is determined.
- (4) The financial burdens facing local school systems.
- (5) The extent to and manner in which all stakeholders are meaningfully involved

in the annual development of the formula.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to convene a study group to examine issues relative to the MFP formula and to submit a written report of the study group's findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the stakeholders to be included in such study group shall include but not be limited to parents, educators, legislators, superintendents, school board members, local school system chief financial officers and business managers, representatives from business, community, and education organizations, and other interested persons as the board deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 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