

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges jointly to study the availability of and need for vocational education programs in preparing high school students for industry-based certification or immediate entrance into a career field and to report their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education at least sixty days prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, education must prepare youth for a world where learning and work are effectively intertwined; and

WHEREAS, there is greater need than ever before to create a better alignment between the abilities of high school graduates and the needs of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, with today's labor market becoming more specialized and the demand for more skills increasing, many governments and businesses are investing in the future of vocational education; and

WHEREAS, vocational education programs for high school students offer such students the option of a high-quality, career-related course of study; and

WHEREAS, vocational education programs for high school students can simultaneously prepare students for life after high school, including immediate employment, further education, and lifelong learning -- whatever path a student may choose; and

WHEREAS, some areas of the state have had success in bridging the gap between the needs of business and industry and the skills and abilities of students seeking employment after high school; and

WHEREAS, however, not all areas of the state have experienced this kind of success and in those areas especially, there is a need for greater coordination and involvement with

industry in order to increase opportunities for job-seeking students and to enhance the economic and workforce development needs of those areas; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a study be conducted on the availability of and need for vocational education programs in preparing high school students for industry-based certification or immediate entrance into a career field in order to equip high school students with all options available to them in preparing for life in today's changing world.

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 and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges jointly to study the availability of and need for vocational education programs in preparing high school students for industry-based certification or immediate entrance into a career field and to submit a written report of their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education at least sixty days prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) A determination of how the state can best meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of all regions of the state, and particularly, the parishes of Natchitoches, DeSoto, and Red River.

(2) A determination of how to efficiently and effectively respond to the needs of business and industry by providing a highly skilled labor force.

(3) A determination of potential costs involved in any future implementation of the study recommendations submitted as requested herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the boards shall involve and receive information from the following:

(1) Louisiana Economic Development.

(2) The Louisiana Workforce Commission.

(3) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

(4) Any other groups, agencies, or organizations that the boards deem necessary and appropriate in conducting such study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, and the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES