

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Requests public school governing authorities to adopt policies and guidelines relative to student participation in state-mandated assessments

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the governing authority of each public school to develop and adopt
3 policies and guidelines relative to students who opt-out of state-mandated
4 assessments.

5 WHEREAS, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to develop an
6 accountability plan that uses data from state-mandated assessments to determine student
7 achievement; and

8 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act further requires states to administer
9 state assessments to a minimum of ninety-five percent of students eligible to participate in
10 state assessments; and

11 WHEREAS, the Act affirms a parent's right to exclude his child from state-mandated
12 assessments; and

13 WHEREAS, the Louisiana school and district accountability system provides that
14 students whose parents choose not to have them participate in state-mandated assessments
15 are given a zero on the assessments, and these are factored into the calculation for the
16 schools' and districts' scores for purposes of the accountability system, effectively lowering
17 the schools' and districts' scores; and

18 WHEREAS, additionally, the state Department of Education has adopted practices
19 and guidelines for student recognition, such as the Student of the Year award program, that
20 require consideration of a student's participation in state-mandated assessments; and

1 WHEREAS, the department should refrain from adopting such practices and
2 guidelines which penalize students for not participating in the state-mandated assessments;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in order to not interfere with a parent's right to exclude his children
5 from state-mandated assessments as provided in federal law, public school governing
6 authorities should adopt policies and guidelines to accommodate such students and avoid
7 penalizing such students as well as the remainder of the school's student body; and

8 WHEREAS, maintaining relationships between public school systems and the
9 populations they serve is paramount to the success of students, and the health and well-being
10 of each child is the highest priority of a school system.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governing authority of each public
13 school to develop and adopt policies and guidelines relative to students who opt-out of state-
14 mandated assessments and to ensure that such policies and guidelines do not penalize either
15 the opt-out students or the students who participate in the state-mandated assessments.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
17 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to reconsider
18 its policy of penalizing schools and school districts in the accountability system for students
19 whose parents have exercised their right to opt-out of state-mandated assessments.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
21 executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, who shall disseminate a copy
22 to each city, parish, or other local public school board, and to the state superintendent of
23 education, who shall disseminate a copy to the governing authority of each charter school.

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)]

Requests the governing authority of each public school to develop and adopt policies and guidelines relative to students who opt-out of state-mandated assessments and to ensure that such policies and guidelines do not penalize either the opt-out student or the students who participate in the state-mandated assessments. Further requests the state Dept. of Education to reconsider its policy of penalizing schools and school districts in the accountability system

for students whose parents have exercised their right to opt-out of state-required assessments.