

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 190

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, BACALA, BRYANT, COX, DEVILLIER, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, FISHER, FREEMAN, GREEN, HUGHES, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, NEWELL, PIERRE, SELDERS, STAGNI, AND WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education (DOE), in consultation with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), to study all pathways for a graduate of a postsecondary education institution to enter into the teaching profession and to make recommendations for removing barriers to certification and promoting consistency in certification and permit requirements.

WHEREAS, the United States is in the midst of a critical teacher shortage, which is expected to continue for many years to come; the impact of this shortage is far-reaching; and

WHEREAS, a highly qualified teacher in every classroom in Louisiana can improve academic achievement for the state's youngest citizens; and

WHEREAS, according to DOE, in 2022, the state of Louisiana had 43,931 teachers and 1,145 teacher vacancies; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Center for American Progress found a 35% decrease in teacher preparation program enrollment; from 2016 to 2021, enrollment in Louisiana's public teacher preparation programs dropped by more than 1,300 teacher candidates; and

WHEREAS, DOE and BESE continue to increase requirements for candidates graduating from both traditional and alternative teacher preparation programs as a reaction to concern from the legislature for the adequate preparation of classroom teachers; such requirements have included year-long residencies and minimum grade point averages and test scores; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of consistency in certification requirements for candidates who enter the profession via a teacher certificate sponsored by a teacher preparation program versus individuals who hold a bachelor's or master's degree and enter the profession via a temporary employment permit; and

WHEREAS, under rules promulgated by BESE pursuant to requirements set forth in Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, candidates in teacher preparation programs are required to complete multiple requirements prior to certification, such as completing between three and nine hours of literacy instruction based on the science of reading, three hours of dyslexia instruction, and, pending the passage of legislation being considered during the 2023 Regular Session, instruction related to the foundations of numeracy; and

WHEREAS, if other legislation in the current session provides that individuals graduating with a bachelor's degree may receive a permit to teach without meeting such literacy, dyslexia, and numeracy requirements; and

WHEREAS, a consistent and clear approach to teacher certification in this state is important for the success of teachers and students alike.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study all pathways for a graduate of a postsecondary education institution to enter into the teaching profession and to make recommendations for removing barriers to certification and promoting consistency in certification and permit requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE, in consultation with BESE, shall pursue the following:

- (1) Research on national practices regarding statewide certification policies.
- (2) A review of each pathway to teacher certification or teacher of record and make recommendations to ensure consistency in statewide certification policies.
- (3) A review of financial barriers and implications to students in each pathway.
- (4) Consultation with deans and directors of teacher preparation programs, at both universities and private providers, to determine how candidates are impacted by the certification requirements implemented by DOE and promulgated by BESE.
- (5) Presentation of findings to the Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Recovery Task Force created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 2021 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE, in consultation with BESE, provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education no later than February 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education and the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES