

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 206

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility and advisability of providing a salary supplement to certain public school educational diagnosticians who have acquired certification by the National Certification for Educational Diagnosticians Board.

WHEREAS, educational diagnosticians are school professionals employed by local school boards who specialize in working with at-risk and special needs children and adolescents and are critical to ensuring that students have a positive and rewarding educational experience; and

WHEREAS, with specialized training in education, these professionals employ their training and skills in collaboration with educators and other professionals to help every student to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally and to learn in a safe, healthy, and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of these professionals who have earned advanced academic degrees and are national board certified in their respective areas of expertise; and

WHEREAS, these school professionals are important to the overall success of the student at school and a priority should be placed on compensating those professionals who have achieved a national board certification in their profession; and

WHEREAS, the process to attain national board certification is considered very rigorous and time consuming and can be very costly for these professionals; and

WHEREAS, the salaries for such employees are eligible for funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act administered by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, a salary supplement of five thousand dollars is justified to reward these professionals for the quality services they provide to at-risk and special needs students in Louisiana schools; and

WHEREAS, state law provides for local school boards to reward other pupil appraisal professionals with salary supplements in order to increase the number of full-time national board certified school psychologists, speech-language audiologists and pathologists, and school social workers; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:421.9 requires that an employing school board pay an annual salary supplement not to exceed five thousand dollars per year to a full-time school psychologist who holds both a valid Louisiana ancillary certificate and a National Certified School Psychologist credential issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board; however, the school board will be reimbursed by the state Department of Education if funds are appropriated for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:421.10 requires that an employing school board pay an annual salary supplement of five thousand dollars per year to a full-time school social worker who holds both a valid professional ancillary certificate in school social work and the Certified School Social Work Specialist credential issued by the National Association of Social Workers; however, the school board will be reimbursed by the state Department of Education if funds are appropriated for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:421.11 provides that the employing school board shall pay an annual salary supplement of five thousand dollars per year to a full-time school speech-language pathologist or audiologist who holds both a valid Louisiana credential, a license issued by the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and a Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association; however, the school board will be reimbursed by the state Department of Education if funds are appropriated for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, educational diagnosticians have a positive impact on at-risk and special needs students and take an active role in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies that enable students to gain the maximum benefit from the normal educational classroom environment.

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 study the feasibility and advisability of providing a salary supplement to a full-time school educational diagnostician who holds a valid Louisiana teaching certificate, an educational diagnostician certification approved and issued by the state Department of Education, and a Nationally Certified Educational Diagnostician credential issued by the National Certification for Educational Diagnosticians Board and who is employed by a school board to provide educational diagnostic services to students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education submit a report of its findings, along with any recommendations for legislation, to the House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than January 1, 2011.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES