

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a task force to review statutory provisions relative to student discipline and make recommendations for revisions that will result in student discipline laws that are comprehensive, fair, consistent, and designed to promote a conducive learning environment.

WHEREAS, effective discipline is critical if a school is to ensure student academic success and provide a safe, orderly, and conducive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, although it is imperative that students be held accountable for their conduct, it is equally important that student discipline be administered in an appropriate, fair, and consistent manner; and

WHEREAS, to be effective, a student discipline policy must fully consider and address the needs of students, teachers, and administrators alike; and

WHEREAS, R. S. 17:416, the primary student discipline statute was first enacted in 1962 and has been amended forty-four times since its original enactment; and

WHEREAS, this statute, which undergirds the student discipline policies developed by all public schools in the state, is fraught with internal contradictions and inconsistencies which make uniform interpretation virtually impossible; and

WHEREAS, the current statutes that govern student discipline rely almost exclusively on reactive punishment for unacceptable student behavior; and

WHEREAS, common sense and research dictate that prevention is more productive than punishment, indicating a need for inclusion of proactive strategies designed to promote the desired student behavior; and

WHEREAS, students, teachers, administrators, schools, and communities will all be better served by student discipline statutes and policies that balance the needs of all parties and seek to change the culture surrounding student behavior and discipline; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that the current student discipline statutes must be comprehensively reviewed and revised, in collaboration with all stakeholders, to achieve the desired result — a safe, orderly school environment in which teachers can effectively provide instruction and students can achieve to their maximum potential.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a task force to review statutory provisions relative to student discipline and make recommendations for revisions that will result in student discipline laws that are comprehensive, fair, consistent, and designed to promote a conducive learning environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force so appointed shall include but may not be limited to representatives of the following:

- (1) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- (2) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- (3) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- (4) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (5) The Louisiana Association of School Principals.
- (6) Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance.
- (7) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- (8) The Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- (9) The office of community services, Department of Social Services.
- (10) The Executive Educators Program, Louisiana State University, College of Education.
- (11) Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children.
- (12) The Louisiana Juvenile Justice Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education submit a written report containing the findings and recommendation of the task force, including a proposed revision of the current statutes on student discipline which specifically includes R.S. 17:416, to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education, not later than March 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 and the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES