

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prepare for implementation of an "education savings account" program.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has established programs that enable parents to enroll their children in the elementary or secondary school that best meets their individual needs; and

WHEREAS, through the course choice program, the state has supported students in accessing secondary courses not offered at their high schools; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has supported parents in saving for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education through individual savings accounts that enable them to direct funds to institutions of their choice; and

WHEREAS, Act 415 of the 2021 Regular Session empowers parents to access funds to support early literacy and reading supports and interventions provided by authorized providers; and

WHEREAS, several states have authorized programs to enable parents of school-age children to receive deposits of public funds into state-authorized "education savings accounts" and to use those funds for tuition, tutoring, educational therapies, virtual education, and early college courses; and

WHEREAS, these can serve as models for implementing and administering a similar program in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prepare for implementation of an "education savings account" program by creating a sustainable framework, identifying potential third party vendors, and engaging in communications with appropriate state agencies that may be involved in the implementation of a program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is requested to provide a report of progress to be submitted to the Senate and House education committees no later than January 12, 2024.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES