

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY SENATORS SMITH AND MOUNT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and review the clarity of board regulations and guidelines relative to the education of dyslexic students and the effectiveness of procedures for monitoring the compliance of public schools and school districts when implementing such regulations and related state law.

WHEREAS, dyslexia, a language based learning disorder characterized by problems with reading, spelling, and writing, is widely recognized as the most common learning disorder and the leading cause of reading deficits in children, affecting as much as fifteen to twenty percent of the population; and

WHEREAS, reading is the basic skill that serves as the foundation for the mastery of all other school subjects, and a lack of proficiency in this essential skill often results in a gap between a child's true ability and his or her academic performance; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy-four percent of children who do not receive appropriate educational intervention for dyslexia before the third grade have been found to still have poor reading skills by the time they reach the ninth grade; and

WHEREAS, early detection and appropriate intervention are critical to helping children with dyslexia and related learning disorders attain the developmental and educational skills necessary for them to remain in a regular education classroom setting and prevent the need for special education referral and services; and

WHEREAS, current state law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and city, parish, and other local public school boards to ensure that students with dyslexia and related disorders be properly identified and provided with educational programs and targeted interventions necessary to address their learning needs; and

WHEREAS, there are concerns that the policies and guidelines promulgated by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, as contained in Bulletin 1903 - Regulations and Guidelines for Implementation of the Louisiana Law for the Education of Dyslexic Students, may not clearly convey statutory requirements with respect to the identification and education of dyslexic students, and that state board policy and regulations are not being properly interpreted and implemented by local school boards, thereby preventing students with dyslexia from receiving the services they critically need to succeed in school and in life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and review the clarity of board regulations and guidelines relative to the education of dyslexic students and the effectiveness of procedures for monitoring the compliance of public schools and school districts when implementing such regulations and related state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education not later than February 15, 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