

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR CARTER

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Requests the state Department of Education to report to the legislature regarding implementation of the recommendations made in the Alternative Education Study Group Report.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to submit a report to the legislature
3 regarding policies made, rules and regulations promulgated, and actions taken by the
4 state Department of Education and public school governing authorities to implement
5 the guiding principles and recommendations contained in the Alternative Education
6 Study Group Report issued by the department in October 2017.

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana has thirty-five alternative education schools and one hundred
8 twenty-seven alternative education programs that enroll more than eighteen thousand
9 students who were either suspended or expelled from their home school, the majority for
10 minor to moderate, nonviolent behavior infractions that should be addressed by the home
11 school; and

12 WHEREAS, data show that students assigned to an alternative education school or
13 program are five times more likely to drop out of school and less likely to earn a high school
14 diploma or a certificate of completion; and

15 WHEREAS, maintaining current policies and practices relative to behavior
16 intervention and alternative education schools and programs constitutes a disservice to
17 students who need to receive the academic, behavioral, social, and emotional services and
18 supports to address and resolve the sources of their problems and enable them to successfully

1 complete high school and college and be career ready; and

2 WHEREAS, in recognition of the pressing need to enhance and expand the
3 effectiveness of the state's alternative education services, the state Department of Education
4 formed the Alternative Education Study Group in March 2017 to "provide guidance for
5 improving alternative education services and practices statewide for students who are most
6 at-risk for not completing their education"; and

7 WHEREAS, the state Department of Education is to be commended for taking the
8 initiative to create a study group composed of stakeholders to undertake an objective,
9 comprehensive study of current practices in the state's alternative schools and programs, and
10 create a state action plan composed of guiding principles designed to address the needs of
11 students enrolled in alternative schools and programs; and

12 WHEREAS, the legislature has a vested interest in learning how the state Department
13 of Education, school governing authorities, and schools are responding to the call of action
14 detailed in the study group's comprehensive report to address the needs of the educationally
15 at-risk students enrolled in alternative schools and programs across the state.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the state Department of Education to submit a report to the legislature, not
18 later than March 1, 2019, regarding policies made, rules and regulations promulgated, and
19 actions taken by the state Department of Education and public school governing authorities
20 to implement the guiding principles and recommendations contained in the Alternative
21 Education Study Group Report issued by the department in October 2017.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
23 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state
24 superintendent of education, the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards
25 Association, and the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter
26 Schools.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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Requests the state Department of Education to submit a report to the legislature, not later than March 1, 2019, regarding policies made, rules and regulations promulgated, and actions taken by the state Department of Education and public school governing authorities to implement the guiding principles and recommendations contained in the Alternative Education Study Group Report issued by the department in October 2017.