

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the secretary of state and the state Department of Education to work together to develop age-appropriate, nonpartisan voter education materials to be used by all students in grades three through twelve.

WHEREAS, in order for America's government to be a representative democracy which is of the people, by the people, and for the people, individuals must be enabled to take advantage of their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, participation in the democratic process of voting provides citizens with a feeling of empowerment; and

WHEREAS, an educated and motivated voter is predicated on a citizen being well-informed about his right to vote, how to register to vote, and how to vote in elections; and

WHEREAS, it is the "policy of the state of Louisiana to encourage full participation in voting by all citizens of the state"; and

WHEREAS, the secretary of state is to "develop activities, events, informational posters and pamphlets, and public service announcements for the implementation of an annual voter registration week ... "; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional goal of Louisiana's educational system is to "provide learning environments and experiences ... in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential"; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has enacted several laws to ensure that students are required to take courses of study that provide instruction on the foundations of our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, studies have repeatedly shown that early and repeated exposure to such ideas and concepts has a positive impact on civic and social engagement; and

WHEREAS, to ensure an educated and engaged citizenry in the democratic processes so critical to the functioning of our state and nation, it is crucial that individuals are prepared to participate in the voting process on an ongoing basis from an early age.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of state and the state Department of Education to work together to develop age-appropriate, nonpartisan voter education materials to be used by all students in grades three through twelve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of state, the president of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE