

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study the impact adding days to the school calendar has on teachers, and to submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education not later than December 1, 2022.

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:154.3 requires that all teachers work not less than one hundred eighty-two days per school year and no fewer than one hundred seventy-seven of those days shall be used to provide instruction to students; and

WHEREAS, Act 306 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Legislature enacted R.S. 17:154.3, which provided for teachers to teach one hundred eighty days, plus up to five additional days for staff development. However, that Act required an additional appropriation to be provided if more than one additional day was required for staff development; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, the law has been amended to add additional work days and to remove both the maximum number of additional work days that may be added to the calendar for teachers and the requirement for an additional appropriation for additional staff development days; and

WHEREAS, even without the demands of required staff development, teachers' responsibilities can extend far beyond the daily bell-to-bell timeframe; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature routinely enacts laws and adopts resolutions that add new requirements for training of teachers; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the state Department of Education listed over a dozen mandatory training sessions that are required annually for all teachers, all of which require additional time from teachers with little to no additional pay; and

WHEREAS, in addition to increased staff development time, many school systems have been adding additional instructional days to their school calendars; and

WHEREAS, few school systems, if any, have increased teacher pay or leave benefits to compensate for the additional time demands; and

WHEREAS, as the issue of teacher shortages is at a critical phase, the impact that additional time commitments have on teacher retention or recruitment needs to be considered.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the state Department of Education to study the impact of adding days to the school calendar has on teachers, and to submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education not later than December 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the state Superintendent of Education.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE