

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to encourage and assist local school districts to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements for the cooperative purchasing of products and services in order to save valuable education dollars.

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 14 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that "(f)or a public purpose, the state and its political subdivisions or political corporations may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other, with the United States or its agencies, or with any public or private association, corporation, or individual"; and

WHEREAS, cooperative endeavor agreements for cooperative purchasing are used to simplify the procurement process for smaller public agencies to allow them to purchase through existing contracts negotiated by larger public agencies in order to reap savings and increase efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, by encouraging one or more smaller school districts to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements for cooperative purchasing with a larger school district that has an existing contract that has already gone through a competitive solicitation, evaluation process, and been awarded to a supplier, the smaller school districts can receive the same favorable discounts and savings that the larger school district has received; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cooperative purchasing for government agencies include reduced procurement costs, greater time efficiency, and the ability to obtain value-added and higher-quality products and services at industry-leading pricing; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana believes that encouraging local school districts to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements for cooperative purchasing of products and services will result in savings and will allow local school districts to use those savings to further their mission to educate children more effectively.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to encourage and assist local school districts to enter into cooperative endeavor agreements for the cooperative purchasing of products and services in order to save valuable education dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE