

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

SCHOOLS/BOARDS: Requests that the Orleans Parish School Board submit a written explanation and timeline to the House Committee on Education relative to the return of McDonogh #35 Senior High School to its pre-Katrina magnet status with selective admissions requirements

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Orleans Parish School Board to submit a written report to the House
3 Committee on Education, by not later than October 31, 2013, that provides an
4 explanation of why McDonough #35 Senior High School has not been returned to
5 its pre-Katrina status as a magnet school with selective admissions requirements and
6 that includes a detailed plan and time line relative to such return and a plan for the
7 implementation of a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
8 curriculum at the school.

9 WHEREAS, McDonough #35 Senior High School has a rich history that dates back
10 to 1917, when it was founded as the first public high school in New Orleans for African
11 American students; and

12 WHEREAS, the mission of McDonough #35 is to encourage academic excellence for
13 all students in challenging and interactive programs that are supported by teachers, staff,
14 students, parents, and the community, and the school's motto is "a choice, not an echo"; and

15 WHEREAS, McDonough #35 holds a special place in the annals of Louisiana history;
16 for nearly one hundred years, the school has been a cornerstone of its community, and the
17 entire Roneagle family takes great pride in this unique education institution; and

18 WHEREAS, prior to Hurricane Katrina, McDonough #35 operated as a magnet school
19 with selective admissions requirements; and

1 WHEREAS, when the school reopened after the storm, it implemented an open
2 enrollment policy in an effort to provide space for middle and high school students pending
3 the reopening of additional schools; and

4 WHEREAS, there is strong community and alumni support for the return of
5 McDonogh #35 to its magnet status with a selective admissions policy; and

6 WHEREAS, the magnet tradition of academic excellence at McDonogh #35 is
7 longstanding and a fundamental part of the fabric of the school, and it is vital that this
8 tradition not be lost; and

9 WHEREAS, nearly eight years have passed since Hurricane Katrina, and this historic
10 school's return to its pre-storm magnet status with a selective admissions policy is long
11 overdue.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Orleans Parish School Board to
14 submit a written report to the House Committee on Education, by not later than October 31,
15 2013, that provides an explanation of why McDonogh #35 Senior High School has not been
16 returned to its pre-Katrina status as a magnet school with selective admissions requirements
17 and that includes a detailed plan and time line relative to such return and a plan for the
18 implementation of a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum
19 at the school.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
21 to the president of the Orleans Parish School Board who shall be responsible for
22 disseminating copies to each member of the school board.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Wesley Bishop

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