

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARMODY

SEX EDUCATION: Requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Health and Hospitals to report on the effectiveness of abstinence-emphasis sex education

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of
3 Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate the effectiveness of the abstinence-
4 emphasis sex education curriculum used in public schools throughout the state on
5 limiting the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and decreasing the rates of teen
6 pregnancy, and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the
7 House of Representatives.

8 WHEREAS, according to the office of public health of the Department of Health and
9 Hospitals, Louisiana's rates of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, are
10 among the highest in the nation, and Louisiana also has very high teen pregnancy rates; and

11 WHEREAS, education is key in reducing rates of sexually transmitted diseases and
12 teen pregnancy, thus building stronger families and a healthier future for Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:281 authorizes any public elementary or secondary school in
14 Louisiana to offer instruction in sex education, and each city, parish, and other local public
15 school system may select its own sex education curriculum; and

16 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:281(A)(4) specifically requires the major emphasis of any sex
17 education instruction offered in the public schools of this state to be the encouragement of
18 sexual abstinence between unmarried persons; and

19 WHEREAS, R.S. 46:2552 requires the state superintendent of education, the
20 secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, and the secretary of the

1 Department of Health and Hospitals to meet together not less than twice annually to review
2 and evaluate the effectiveness of current state programs, including but not limited to sex
3 education provided by public schools, aimed at reducing the rate of teen pregnancy and
4 preventing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among the youth of
5 Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every person
7 an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that the sex education
8 curriculum provided throughout the state receive a thorough evaluation so that
9 determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide experiences and
10 opportunities to students that help them succeed in all aspects of life.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
13 Education and the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate the
14 effectiveness of the sex education curriculum used in public schools throughout the state on
15 limiting the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and decreasing the rates of teen
16 pregnancy, and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House of
17 Representatives not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular Session
18 of the Legislature of Louisiana.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include, at a minimum, all of the
20 following information:

21 (1) The number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy for
22 each parish in the state for the previous twenty years.

23 (2) The date of when the "abstinence only" sexual education curriculum policy was
24 adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the date it was officially
25 implemented in public schools.

26 (3) An evaluation of the true effect of the "abstinence only" curriculum on the
27 overall health of Louisiana school-aged youth and young adults.

28 (4) A plan of action to increase the effectiveness of the sex education curriculum
29 used in this state including policy and administrative changes that can be implemented
30 immediately as well as recommendations for necessary legislation.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
2 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the secretary
3 of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

HR 69 Original

2015 Regular Session

Carmody

Directs the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate the effectiveness of the sex education curriculum used in public schools throughout the state on limiting the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and decreasing the rates of teen pregnancy, and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2016 R.S.