

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

STUDENTS: Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) study the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding in support of students in BESE-approved home study programs

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to
3 study the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding in support of students
4 in BESE-approved home study programs and to submit a written report of its
5 findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to
6 the issue, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the
7 beginning of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana's various school choice options give parents the opportunity
9 to select education opportunities that best meet their children's needs, including traditional
10 public schools, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and home study programs; and

11 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:236.1 grants the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education (BESE) the authority to approve home study programs and provides for approval
13 if the parent certifies that the program offers a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal
14 to that offered by public schools at the same grade level; and

15 WHEREAS, certain privileges are afforded to students who complete approved home
16 study programs; for example, the law provides that a high school diploma awarded by an
17 approved home study program shall be deemed to have all of the rights and privileges
18 afforded to a high school diploma awarded by a state-approved nonpublic school, and if they
19 meet certain criteria, such students are eligible for state-funded Taylor Opportunity Program
20 for Students (TOPS) awards; and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to those who have long chosen home schooling as the
2 preferred method of education for their families, the COVID-19 pandemic has led many
3 parents to choose to home school their children rather than send them to school in traditional
4 congregate settings; and

5 WHEREAS, some parents have expressed the need for financial assistance as they
6 strive to meet the educational needs of their children in a home study environment, including
7 expenses associated with curricula, instructional materials, and internet access; and

8 WHEREAS, while the Minimum Foundation Program formula is reserved to funding
9 public education, there is precedent for the state to fund certain school choice options outside
10 of the formula, such as the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program; and

11 WHEREAS, home study is a key component of school choice in Louisiana, and in
12 order to ensure that all Louisiana children have the opportunity to reach their full academic
13 potential, it is appropriate to explore the possibility of providing some form of state support
14 to financially assist those families participating in BESE-approved home study programs.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education (BESE) to study the feasibility and advisability of providing state
18 funding in support of students in BESE-approved home study programs and to submit a
19 written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation
20 relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to
21 the beginning of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include but need not be limited
23 to information on methods through which other states, if any, provide state funding in
24 support of home study programs.

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

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 40 Original

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Moore

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) study the feasibility and advisability of providing state funding for students in BESE-approved home study programs and submit a written report to the House Education Committee not later than 60 days prior to the 2021 R.S.