

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 204

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with certain others, to study the provisions of enacted House Bill No. 1491 of the 2010 Regular Session, relative to the high school core curriculum requirements for certain students to be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award, and determine if requiring a student to successfully complete at least nineteen units of a specified curriculum beginning with the 2013-2014 school year will have a disparate impact on students attending state-approved nonpublic schools; to request that the board make recommendations as to how best to resolve any such disparate impact, if any; to provide for a written report on study findings and recommendations to be made to the House Committee on Education; and to provide for related matters.

WHEREAS, the legislature has enacted House Bill No. 1491 of the 2010 Regular Session relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); and

WHEREAS, this legislation provides, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, that certain students must successfully complete at least nineteen units of a specified high school core curriculum to be eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award; and

WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for a student who is attending a nonpublic high school that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to have to take for assorted purposes one or more courses not required of a student attending a public high school.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, the State Board of Elementary

and Secondary Education and the board's advisory Nonpublic School Commission, the Taylor Foundation, Citizens for Educational Choice, and others as deemed appropriate by the Board of Regents, to study the provisions of enacted House Bill No. 1491 of the 2010 Regular Session, relative to the high school core curriculum requirements for certain students to be eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award, and determine if requiring a student to successfully complete at least nineteen units of the specified curriculum beginning with the 2013-2014 school year will have a disparate impact on students attending state-approved nonpublic schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall make recommendations as to how best to resolve any such disparate impact, if any.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall report in writing on study findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education by not later than sixty days prior to the start of the 2011 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents and to the commissioner of higher education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES