

1 kindergarten readiness, or progression towards kindergarten readiness, as applicable for the
2 ages of children served.

3 (3) Parents who choose to send their children to publicly funded early childhood
4 programs should have clear and actionable information on the quality of the programs
5 available.

6 (4) Providers of publicly funded early childhood programs should be held
7 accountable for the public monies they receive, but given the autonomy to implement an
8 educational program that promotes and achieves kindergarten readiness without undue
9 regulation.

10 (5) State entities involved in the oversight or provision of early childhood programs
11 should collaborate, set standards of educational achievement for young children that align
12 with standards established for children enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve, and
13 hold providers of publicly funded early childhood programs accountable without imposing
14 undue regulation on said programs.

15 (6) There are high-quality early childhood programs in this state that can serve as
16 a model for increasing standards of achievement and financial efficiency in publicly funded
17 early childhood programs.

18 (7) Publicly funded early childhood programs receive a significant amount of public
19 monies that can and should be maximized in pursuit of high-quality early childhood
20 programs that achieve high levels of kindergarten readiness or progression towards
21 kindergarten readiness, as applicable for the ages of children served.

22 (8) Tax incentives created for the purpose of promoting high-quality early childhood
23 programs should be awarded based on kindergarten readiness, or progression towards
24 kindergarten readiness, as applicable for the ages of children served.

25 (9) A fragmented system of standards, funding, and oversight of the state's publicly
26 funded early childhood programs serves as a barrier to providing every child with the high-
27 quality services and programs which he deserves and to providing parents with the
28 information needed to make an informed choice when selecting the programs that best fit
29 the needs of their children; and

1 WHEREAS, the legislature expressed its intent that "a comprehensive and integrated
2 delivery system for early childhood care and education be created to ensure that every child
3 enters kindergarten healthy and ready to learn"; and

4 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
5 Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Family Services have worked
6 diligently and collaboratively to implement the provisions of Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular
7 Session of the Legislature, including the integration of standards and expectations across
8 publicly funded early childhood care and education programs and the support of regional
9 pilot programs; and

10 WHEREAS, the implementation of Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular Session of the
11 Legislature has appropriately focused on increasing the quality of care and education,
12 preparing children to be kindergarten-ready, and honoring family choices; and

13 WHEREAS, it is imperative that all publicly funded early childhood care and
14 education programs offer a consistent level of quality care and education to families,
15 providing a safe, nurturing environment for children and preparing all students to
16 successfully enter kindergarten; and

17 WHEREAS, the provision of quality care and education is determined, in large part,
18 by the ability of early learning centers to employ capable individuals as caregivers and
19 teachers; and

20 WHEREAS, publicly funded early childhood care and education programs in
21 Louisiana are not currently funded equitably, contributing to the inability of some early
22 learning centers and programs to meet the state's quality standards and expectations that lead
23 to children being kindergarten-ready; and

24 WHEREAS, the families of approximately 65,000 Louisiana children have expressed
25 their desire and need for quality early childhood care and education, as evidenced by
26 program enrollments and waiting lists; and

27 WHEREAS, the state should make every reasonable attempt to equitably fund family
28 choices to the fullest extent possible and to offer choices of consistent quality as families
29 select publicly funded early childhood care and education.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a
3 statewide model for the funding of and the equitable distribution of public funds for quality
4 early childhood care and education for Louisiana children, ages birth to five, whose families
5 request such services, and to submit a report with recommendations regarding the model to
6 the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session
7 of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing such a model, the board shall
9 consult with the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council and the leadership of
10 organizations representing child care, Head Start, and public and nonpublic schools.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
13 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)]

Leger

HCR No. 61

Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in consultation with specified entities and organizations, to develop a statewide model for the funding of and equitable distribution of public funds for quality early childhood care and education for children ages birth to five, whose families request such services, and to submit a report with recommendations about the model to the legislature no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2015 R.S.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed resolution.

1. Made stylistic changes to request BESE to develop a statewide model for funding and equitable distribution of public funds for quality early childhood care and education for children ages birth to five, whose families request such services, instead of requesting BESE to develop a statewide funding model for equitable funding and distribution of public funds to support early childhood care and education for families of children ages birth to five requesting such services.
2. Made stylistic changes to request BESE to submit a report with recommendations relative to the model instead of requesting BESE to recommend the model.