

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education jointly to assess water accessibility in Louisiana schools and report its findings to the legislature by February 1, 2015.

WHEREAS, water is vital to the physical and cognitive health of children; and

WHEREAS, dehydration can lead to temporary cognitive impairments such as reduced concentration and limited short-term memory; and

WHEREAS, choosing sugar-sweetened beverages as alternatives to water may lead to weight gain, insulin resistance or type-2 diabetes, some forms of cancer, and tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, almost thirty-one percent of Louisiana youths report drinking at least two sodas per day; and

WHEREAS, the federal Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 requires school districts to make free, potable drinking water available to students in food service areas during meal times; and

WHEREAS, while Louisiana's plumbing code requires schools to provide one drinking fountain for every three classrooms and at least one drinking fountain per floor, school personnel have revealed that water fountains are often out of order and that students do not like the taste of the unfiltered water; and

WHEREAS, schools may select specific methods for serving water, such as disposal cups and reusable water bottles; and

WHEREAS, since the current state of water access in Louisiana schools, both during meal times and throughout the school day, is unknown, further field research is needed to determine each school's needs and the best ways to promote water consumption among youth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education jointly to assess water accessibility in Louisiana schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department and the board jointly shall report their findings to the legislature no later than February 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES