

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

STUDENTS: Requests the state Department of Education to re-create a commission to study and make recommendations relative to improving reading proficiency for certain students

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to re-create the Louisiana Early
3 Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations on how best to develop
4 and implement an aligned system that provides effective, evidence-based reading
5 instruction for children from early childhood through third grade.

6 WHEREAS, in the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature, House Resolution
7 No. 222 requested the creation of the Louisiana Early Literacy Commission; comprised of
8 state education leaders, policymakers, educators, and parents, the commission convened for
9 the first time in September 2019, and the work of the commission culminated in a report
10 released in January 2020 and an addendum released in January 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, in the report addendum, the commission reaffirmed its initial goals,
12 including supporting \$15 million in annual funding to early literacy and having every teacher
13 use a high quality curriculum to teach students the foundations of reading and language and
14 literacy; and

15 WHEREAS, the commission also asserted that every student who struggles to read
16 ought to receive timely research-based literacy interventions and every school must have a
17 culture in which all teachers are responsible for and equipped to deliver effective literacy
18 instruction.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to

1 re-create the Louisiana Early Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations on
2 how best to develop and implement an aligned system that provides effective evidence-based
3 reading instruction for children from early childhood through third grade.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall examine the impact of the
5 pandemic on childhood literacy and recommend responses to that impact.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be composed of twenty-
7 two members as follows:

- 8 (1) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- 9 (2) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- 10 (3) The governor or his designee.
- 11 (4) Two superintendents from school districts that have implemented successful,
12 evidence-based reading instruction appointed by the State Board of
13 Elementary and Secondary Education in consultation with the Louisiana
14 Association of School Superintendents.
- 15 (5) A principal of a school that has implemented successful, evidence-based
16 reading instruction appointed by the State Board of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education in consultation with the Louisiana Association of
18 School Principals.
- 19 (6) A Board of Regents staff member appointed by the commissioner of higher
20 education.
- 21 (7) A state Department of Education staff member appointed by the state
22 superintendent of education.
- 23 (8) The executive director of the Children's Cabinet or his designee.
- 24 (9) A parent with a demonstrated commitment to and understanding of evidence-
25 based reading instruction who is a member of Decoding Dyslexia Louisiana
26 appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- 27 (10) Two educators with a demonstrated commitment to and understanding of
28 evidence-based reading instruction appointed by the State Board of
29 Elementary and Secondary Education in consultation with the state
30 superintendent of education and the Center for Development and Learning.

- 1 (11) The president of the Louisiana Early Childhood Association or his designee.
- 2 (12) The president of the Louisiana Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
- 3 or his designee.
- 4 (13) The dean of a college of education of a Louisiana postsecondary education
- 5 institution who is a member of Deans for Impact appointed by the
- 6 commissioner of higher education.
- 7 (14) The executive director of the Center for Development and Learning or his
- 8 designee.
- 9 (15) The executive director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children or his
- 10 designee.
- 11 (16) A faculty member or researcher from a Louisiana four-year public
- 12 postsecondary education institution who is well-versed in evidence-based
- 13 reading instruction appointed by the commissioner of higher education.
- 14 (17) A faculty member or researcher from a Louisiana four-year nonpublic
- 15 postsecondary education institution who is well-versed in evidence-based
- 16 reading instruction appointed by the Louisiana Association of Independent
- 17 Colleges and Universities.
- 18 (18) A member who is well-versed in evidence-based reading instruction
- 19 appointed by the Louisiana Reading Association.
- 20 (19) A member who is well-versed in written language acquisition and evidence-
- 21 based reading instruction appointed by the Louisiana Speech-Language-
- 22 Hearing Association.
- 23 (20) A teacher who works with students who are deaf or hard of hearing appointed
- 24 by the director of the Louisiana School for the Deaf.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that vacancies shall be filled in the manner of
26 original appointment.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership shall constitute
28 a quorum for the transaction of business and an affirmative vote of the quorum present is
29 required for any official action of the commission.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members shall serve without compensation but
2 may be reimbursed for expenses as provided by the respective appointing authority.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education and the
4 commissioner of higher education or their designees shall serve as co-chairmen and the state
5 Department of Education shall provide staff support to the commission.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall study and make
7 recommendations relative to improving the reading proficiency of kindergarten through third
8 grade students and shall:

- 9 (1) Gather and analyze data to determine the degree to which evidence-based
10 reading is being implemented with fidelity in early childhood care and
11 education settings and in public schools.
- 12 (2) Conduct an assessment of the number of new educators in classrooms,
13 including kindergarten through third grade teachers, special education
14 teachers, and reading specialists who have undergone training in and have
15 skills in evidence-based reading instruction.
- 16 (3) Make recommendations relative to the following:
 - 17 (a) How colleges of education and alternative certification programs can provide
18 programs of study on evidence-based reading practices for kindergarten
19 through third grade teachers, special education teachers, and reading
20 specialists.
 - 21 (b) How the state Department of Education can ensure that all teacher
22 preparation programs produce teacher candidates with the competencies
23 needed to teach evidence-based instruction.
 - 24 (c) How to assist public schools and public school districts in adopting reading
25 programs that utilize systematic and cumulative evidence-based reading
26 instruction.
 - 27 (d) How the state Department of Education can equip educators with the
28 evidence-based competencies and skills needed to ensure the reading
29 proficiency of kindergarten through third grade students.

1 (e) How the state Department of Education can equip parents with practical tools
2 to address potential literacy loss from the pandemic.

3 (4) Review the implementation of methods to increase reading proficiency
4 among kindergarten through third grade students and establish future
5 benchmarks.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit written reports of
7 its findings and recommendations by January 14, 2022, and January 13, 2023, and shall
8 submit a written report on the status of the implementation of its recommendations and state
9 Department of Education progress by January 12, 2024, and these reports shall be submitted
10 to the governor, the House Committee on Education, the Board of Regents, the State Board
11 of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Children's Cabinet.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 state superintendent of education and the commissioner of higher 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 119 Original

2021 Regular Session

Hughes

Requests the state Dept. of Education to recreate the La. Early Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations relative to reading instruction.