

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR BOUIE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Directs the state Department of Education to provide specific information in a report to the Senate committees on finance and education relative to the original Charter School Demonstration Programs Law.

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the state Department of Education to provide specific information in a report to the Senate committees on education and finance relative to the original Charter School Demonstration Programs Law.

WHEREAS, the Preamble of Article VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana states "the goal of the public educational system is to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential"; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide learning environments and experiences that are humane, just and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, the legislature enacted Act 192 of the 1995 Regular Session; and

WHEREAS, the original Act was known and cited as the "Charter School Demonstration Programs Law", as a pilot program to allow a small number of school systems to volunteer to participate in an effort that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, the initial law established the pilot program in eight school districts

1 which was expanded in 1997 to all school districts in Louisiana, and in 2003 its scope was
2 further broadened by constitutional amendment to authorize the state to take over and
3 convert schools into charter schools; and

4 WHEREAS, a Section of the Act consisted of R.S. 17:3972, which stated in part that
5 it was the intention of the legislature, in enacting the Charter School Demonstration
6 Programs Law, to authorize experimentation by city and parish school boards by allowing
7 the creation of innovative kinds of independent public schools for students; and

8 WHEREAS, it was also the intention of the legislature to provide a framework for
9 such experimentation by the creation of such schools, a means for all persons with valid
10 ideas and motivation to participate in the experiment, and a mechanism by which experiment
11 results can be analyzed, the positive results repeated or replicated, if appropriate, and the
12 negative results identified and eliminated; and

13 WHEREAS, finally, it was the intention of the legislature that the best interest of
14 students who are economically disadvantaged must be the overriding consideration in
15 implementing the provisions of the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law; and

16 WHEREAS, the Act also stated the legislative purpose of the Charter School
17 Demonstration Programs Law was to provide opportunities for educators and others to form,
18 operate, or be employed within a charter school with each school designed to accomplish
19 one or more of a number of objectives; and

20 WHEREAS, the objectives outlined in the original Act, which are still stated in
21 current law, are to improve pupil learning and the public school system; increase learning
22 opportunities and access to quality education for pupils; encourage the use of different and
23 innovative teaching methods, educational models, and a variety of governance, management,
24 and administrative structures; require appropriate assessment and measurement of academic
25 learning results; account better and more thoroughly for educational results; and create new
26 professional opportunities for teachers and other school employees, including the
27 opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site; and

28 WHEREAS, a great number of changes have occurred within Louisiana's educational
29 system since the inception of the program, including the expansion of charter schools within
30 certain municipalities; and

1 WHEREAS, today many questions surround various aspects of the Charter School
2 Demonstration Programs Law, now known as the Louisiana Public Charter School Law,
3 including its original legislative intent of experimentation, evidence based approaches and
4 its findings; its impact on traditional public schools, and the costs and benefits of the
5 program; and

6 WHEREAS, since the inception of the program, information regarding the success
7 of the experimentation aspects of the evidence based approaches and findings and the annual
8 costs of the program have never been voluntarily provided to the Senate nor the legislature
9 as a body; and

10 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana seeks to review and analyze
11 the experimentation aspects of the evidence based approaches used in accordance with the
12 original Charter School Demonstration Programs Law to determine whether the students
13 who attend charter schools have received, is receiving, and will receive a proper and just
14 education in accordance with the Constitution of Louisiana.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
16 does hereby authorize and direct the state Department of Education to provide specific
17 information relative to the original Charter School Demonstration Programs Law that at a
18 minimum includes a review of the program's purpose and history, and an evaluation of the
19 success of the evidence based approaches, by written report to the Senate committees on
20 education and finance no later than December 31, 2025.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall address all of the following:

22 (1) What are the evidence based approaches used by schools participating in the
23 Charter School Demonstration Program since its inception?

24 (2) What mechanism was used by the Charter School Demonstration Program
25 schools to determine how the experiment results can be analyzed?

26 (3) What are the positive results of evidence based approaches that have been
27 repeated or replicated by participating schools of the Charter School Demonstration
28 Program?

29 (4) What are the negative results of evidence based approaches that have been
30 identified and eliminated by participating schools of the Charter School Demonstration

Program?

(5) How many charter schools have participated and operated in the program since 2003?

(6) How many charter schools have closed since the inception of the program?

(7) What is the total amount of state tax dollars that has been spent on charter schools between 2005 and 2025?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the report shall also be submitted to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office for review and an assessment of the resources used by the department in its experimentation of evidence base approaches as required by the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law; and that the legislative auditor shall submit its finding to the Senate committees on education and finance by April 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST		
SR 92 Original	2025 Regular Session	Bouie

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