

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 98

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study the impact of Act No. 313 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, which enacted a ban on student possession of telecommunications devices during the instructional day.

WHEREAS, Act No. 313 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature enacted a ban on student possession of electronic telecommunications devices during the instructional day; and

WHEREAS, this bill passed with strong majorities in both the House and the Senate and was supported by members of the public education academic and advocacy community, including the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Louisiana Federation of Teachers; and

WHEREAS, not all in Louisiana were in full agreement with this measure; some expressed concern that this legislation was unnecessary and unadvisable; and

WHEREAS, in Vernon Parish, a group of highly engaged students at Rosepine High School drafted a petition to ask the legislature to consider modifying this law; they collected more than four hundred signatures from the high school and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, these students relayed concerns over safety and health and other legitimate issues related to not having access to cell phones during the school day and asked for assistance in revisiting this legislation from their district's state representative, who has great respect for their initiative and believes their voices should be heard; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this law, particularly with respect to student performance, merits further study on a statewide level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study the impact of Act No. 313 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, which enacted a ban on student possession of telecommunications devices during the instructional day, including but not limited to factors related to student performance that may be attributable to the law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education may report to the author of this Resolution relative to the findings of the study either orally or in writing.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES