

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 251

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the voting threshold required by law for parental approval relative to the conversion of a preexisting school to a charter school and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including but not limited to recommendations for legislation pertaining to the potential modification of this requirement, to the House Committee on Education not later than January 31, 2026.

WHEREAS, present law provides that the purposes of the Louisiana Public Charter School Law (R.S. 17:3971 et seq.) are to increase school choice options throughout the state and to provide opportunities for parents, educators, and others to form, operate, or be employed within an operationally autonomous charter school designed to accomplish certain educational objectives; and

WHEREAS, this law provides for various types of charter schools, including preexisting schools that are converted to charter schools, and provides a process for conversion, including a requirement relative to parental approval; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that approval by the parents of students attending a preexisting school proposed to be converted to a charter school requires a favorable vote of the majority of the parents of students enrolled in the school at the time of the election who are voting, provided the number of votes cast equals at least fifty percent of the number of students; the law further provides that there shall be one vote for each student enrolled in the school which may be cast by one parent for each student; and

WHEREAS, concern has been expressed that it can be challenging for parents in rural schools to participate in school-wide votes and to meet the voting threshold required by law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the voting threshold required by law for parental approval relative to the conversion of a preexisting school to a charter school and submit a written report of findings and conclusions to the House Committee on Education not later than January 31, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include recommendations for legislation for how this requirement might be modified in order to better meet the needs of Louisiana's students and fulfill the purposes of the Louisiana Public Charter School Law.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES