

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the prevalence and use of student fees in public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2017.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana recognizes the importance of public education in affording every child an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, a quality public school education must be available free of charge in order to provide an equal opportunity to every child regardless of the child's economic status; and

WHEREAS, the practice of charging fees to public school students has the potential, if overused or used inappropriately, to create economic barriers to equality of opportunity in public education; and

WHEREAS, students may be assessed fees for various purposes including but not limited to fees for academic materials and supplies, extracurricular activities such as band and math club, and graduation; and

WHEREAS, many are concerned that there is currently no method of tracking and regulating the assessment of fees to public school students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a thorough study of the prevalence and use of student fees in public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) A comprehensive survey of the stated purpose and amount of each fee assessed to each student and his family in each public elementary and secondary school.
- (2) Any trends in the prevalence and amount of such fees over time.
- (3) The existence and use of fee waivers, including hardship and indigency waivers, at each such public school and the manner in which the existence of such waivers is communicated to students and parents.
- (4) The total burden of such fees on families at each such public school.
- (5) The relationship between the amount of such fees and the reasonable costs of a quality public education.
- (6) The manner in which the proceeds of such fees are actually used by the school collecting the fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public elementary and secondary schools, school boards, and school administrators shall fully cooperate and shall provide such information, documents, and assistance to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as may be appropriate in the completion of the study as provided by this Resolution.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE