



1           WHEREAS, few respondents were able to identify a formal policy or information  
2 on their websites regarding economic hardship waivers for students unable to pay fees; and

3           WHEREAS, without consideration of family economic hardships, economically  
4 disadvantaged students could experience limited access to rigorous courses, experiences, and  
5 services that comprise a quality education; and

6           WHEREAS, based on the findings of the report, the legislature passed House  
7 Resolution No. 183 of the 2017 Regular Session, which requested the governing authority  
8 of each public school and each nonpublic school that participates in the Student Scholarships  
9 for Educational Excellence Program to adopt a policy on the assessment, collection, and use  
10 of student fees; and

11           WHEREAS, in response to the resolution, the state Department of Education notified  
12 all such governing authorities of the legislature's request and administered a survey to  
13 determine which governing authorities had taken actions to adopt the policies requested; and

14           WHEREAS, the department received responses from sixty-three percent of such  
15 governing authorities; sixty-one percent of respondents reported already having or having  
16 recently adopted a formal, written policy, and thirty-nine percent reported that they did not  
17 have such a policy; and

18           WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of governing authorities were unable to  
19 identify clear language within their policies for addressing economic hardships when  
20 students are unable to pay fees; and

21           WHEREAS, the practice of not addressing economic hardships in a clear and  
22 consistent manner risks the creation of barriers to equity and opportunity; and

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

27           WHEREAS, all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, must have equal  
28 access to a quality education in order to develop to their full potential.

29           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
30 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Task Force on Student Fees to study and

1 make recommendations relative to the assessment of fees to students attending public  
2 schools and students attending nonpublic schools through the Student Scholarships for  
3 Educational Excellence Program and to submit a written report of findings and  
4 recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later than January 31, 2019.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be as  
6 follows:

7 (1) One local superintendent appointed by the Louisiana Association of School  
8 Superintendents.

9 (2) One member or staff representative of the Louisiana School Boards Association  
10 appointed by the executive director.

11 (3) One charter school leader appointed by the Louisiana Association for Public  
12 Charter Schools.

13 (4) One member or staff representative of the Louisiana Association of Public  
14 Charter Schools appointed by the executive director.

15 (5) Two principals appointed by the Louisiana Association of Principals.

16 (6) One leader of a nonpublic school that participates in the Student Scholarships for  
17 Educational Excellence Program appointed by the chair of the Nonpublic School Advisory  
18 Council established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

19 (7) Three parents of children attending a traditional public school, a charter school,  
20 and a nonpublic school participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence  
21 Program, respectively, selected by the Louisiana Parent Teacher Association.

22 (8) A representative of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services  
23 who works with family economic assistance programs appointed by the secretary of the  
24 department.

25 (9) One member of the House Committee on Education appointed by the chairman.

26 (10) One representative of the state Department of Education who participated in the  
27 studies conducted in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 137 of the 2016 Regular  
28 Session and House Resolution No. 183 of the 2017 Regular Session appointed by the state  
29 superintendent of education.

30 (11) One representative of Urban League of Louisiana appointed by the president.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study and make  
2 recommendations relative to matters that include but need not be limited to the following:

3 (1) The establishment of clear, transparent, and consistent processes by which fees  
4 and economic hardship considerations are clearly communicated to parents and the public.

5 (2) The needs of economically disadvantaged students in order to provide for equal  
6 access to schools, rigorous courses, and enriching experiences.

7 (3) Related policies and processes of other states that may serve as best practices.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the representative from the state Department of  
9 Education shall convene the first meeting not later than September 1, 2018, and that  
10 department staff shall provide administrative support to the task force.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
12 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governing authorities of all public elementary  
13 and secondary schools and nonpublic schools participating in the Student Scholarships for  
14 Educational Excellence Program to fully cooperate with the task force and provide any  
15 requested information that may be needed to complete its work.

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#### 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)]

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HR 12 Original

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

Smith

Creates the Task Force on Student Fees to study and make recommendations relative to the assessment of student fees and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House education committee not later than Jan. 31, 2019.