

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY SENATORS BISHOP, BARROW, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, GATTI, LAFLEUR, MARTINY, MORRELL, TARVER AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to work with the governor and the legislature to develop a ten-year plan to increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary is the highest in the nation.

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

WHEREAS, attracting and retaining quality teachers in all of Louisiana's classrooms is one of the most important aspects in assuring that an excellent educational environment is provided; and

WHEREAS, placing a highly qualified, highly engaged, appropriately certified teacher in every classroom will become more difficult if teacher pay in Louisiana continues to lag behind the pay of other professions in this state and teacher salaries in other states; and

WHEREAS, the latest data from the National Education Association (NEA) shows that the average Louisiana teacher salary in 2017 was \$50,000, which was \$9,660 below the average salary of teachers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, providing competitive salaries is absolutely necessary in order to encourage the best and brightest young people to enter the teaching profession, to teach in the public schools, and provide an incentive for excellent teachers to make teaching a lifelong career; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature is appreciative of the dedication of Louisiana's classroom teachers and their tireless work in providing a high quality educational environment to each student in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature supports providing public school teachers competitive pay and benefits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to work with the governor and the legislature to develop a ten-year plan to increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary is the highest in the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall submit a written report on the plan to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education at least thirty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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 governor.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES