

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study collaboratively the feasibility and advisability of allowing Anatomy and Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, Biology II for purposes of satisfying requirements relative to qualification for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students awards and high school graduation and submit jointly a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that it is the goal of the state's public educational system to afford every individual an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, Anatomy and Physiology is a dynamic and challenging high school course that provides an excellent foundation for students interested in pursuing further studies and careers in scientific fields; and

WHEREAS, while Anatomy and Physiology has some similarities with Biology II, they are distinct courses that do not completely overlap in terms of subject matter; some students who are particularly interested in the topics covered in these courses would like the option of taking both and having them both count for credit toward satisfying requirements for high school graduation and Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award qualification, but that is not currently an option; and

WHEREAS, in requirements for high school graduation, Biology II and Anatomy and Physiology are grouped together in the same subset of science options, only one of which can be taken for credit toward graduation; similarly, TOPS rules provide that

Anatomy and Physiology is an acceptable equivalent course for Biology II, which means that if they are both taken, they cannot both "count" for purposes of TOPS; and

WHEREAS, graduation requirements are set in State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy, except for graduation requirements for a career diploma, which are set in state law; TOPS core curricula requirements are also provided in state law; thus, amendments of such laws should be considered; and

WHEREAS, there has been a move in recent years to align high school graduation requirements with TOPS core curricula requirements; thus, any revisions of these requirements should be made in concert; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that the feasibility and advisability of including Anatomy and Physiology as an option in addition to, rather than a substitute for, Biology II receive a thorough evaluation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study collaboratively the feasibility and advisability of allowing Anatomy and Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, Biology II for purposes of satisfying requirements relative to qualification for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students awards and high school graduation and submit jointly a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents and the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE