

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BRYANT, ROBBY CARTER, CORMIER, EDMONDS, GOUDEAU, HORTON, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, JONES, KERNER, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCCORMICK, MCMAHEN, GREGORY MILLER, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, SCHEXNAYDER, SELDERS, STAGNI, THOMPSON, WHITE, AND WILLARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request governing authorities of public schools to continue to follow the operational pay schedule for school bus operators during emergencies.

WHEREAS, present law, R.S. 17:497, provides a compensation schedule for school bus operators for the operation of each school bus operated in the public school system of the state of Louisiana; this Section further provides that, when funds become available, a separate schedule shall be followed for a minimum of one hundred eighty days during the nine-month school year and the number of days of actual operation for any summer semester; and

WHEREAS, public school governing authorities are in receipt of funds for the purpose of compensating school bus operators during the 2019-2020 school year; public school governing authorities are also in receipt of funds from The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, a recognition that COVID-19 and the related public health emergency and school closures created hardships for districts, teachers, and school employees; and

WHEREAS, commensurate with inflation in the prices of gasoline, school bus parts, and mechanical costs, the costs of school bus operation have risen significantly since the compensation schedule was developed; and

WHEREAS, school bus operators often use operational funds for the purpose of maintenance and repair; and

WHEREAS, during periods of school closure, the costs associated with owning and operating a school bus do not significantly decrease; and

WHEREAS, for the 2019-2020 school year, Proclamation Number 52 JBE 2020 suspended provisions of R.S. 17:154.3 that required teachers to work a minimum number of days per school year; while this guaranteed teachers no disruptions in compensation for such school year, the hardships created by nonpayment of operational funds to school bus operators during an emergency could be detrimental.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request public school governing authorities to continue payment of operational pay pursuant to R.S. 17:497, including during emergencies that result in school closures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education, the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, and the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE