

1 WHEREAS, the cost of child care in Louisiana has risen twelve percent over the past
2 three years and currently costs almost as much as tuition at a public college or university;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, breakdowns in the provision of child care have significant impacts on
5 parents' ability to work and impair the business community's access to a reliable workforce;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, studies estimate the annual loss attributable to child care breakdowns
8 to Louisiana's pre-COVID economy at \$1.1 billion a year; and

9 WHEREAS, although the state has made sweeping reforms to early child care and
10 education, a teacher in a Type I or Type II early learning center and an assistant teacher in
11 a Type III early learning center is not required to have even a high school diploma to be
12 qualified to teach under current licensing regulations; and

13 WHEREAS, national data indicate that, despite the high child care costs borne by
14 parents, the median wage for child care workers in Louisiana in 2019 was \$9.13 an hour,
15 which is less than half of the average kindergarten teacher's salary; and

16 WHEREAS, the turnover rate among early child care and education teachers reduces
17 the continuity of care for children and causes logistical and business issues for providers; and

18 WHEREAS, specific data on the education, training, compensation, and employment
19 turnover rates of early child care and education teachers in Louisiana are not easily or readily
20 available.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to
23 study the education and training requirements, compensation, and employment turnover rates
24 of early childhood care and education teachers and the implications of the data surrounding
25 these issues on child outcomes in Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall
27 collaborate with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Louisiana
28 Workforce Commission, the Board of Regents, relevant stakeholder groups, and research
29 organizations to study these issues, including an analysis of the following data and
30 information:

1 (1) The education levels, compensation, and employment turnover rates of early
2 child care and education teachers of children from birth through age four in
3 Louisiana as compared to other states.

4 (2) A comparison of the compensation of Louisiana's early child care and
5 education teachers with similar professions in the state.

6 (3) The costs of early child care and education to parents of children from birth
7 to age four in Louisiana as compared to other states.

8 (4) Information on how other states or cities have endeavored to increase pay for
9 early child care and education teachers and the effectiveness of those
10 initiatives.

11 (5) Any other data or information the department deems pertinent and relevant.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall submit
13 a written report of its findings, including recommendations, to the House Committee on
14 Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Commerce,
15 and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by February 1, 2021.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
18 superintendent of education.

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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Hilferty

Requests the state Dept. of Education to study the education and training requirements, compensation, and employment turnover rates of early childhood care and education teachers and the implications of data surrounding these issues on child outcomes and to submit a written report to the House committees on education, appropriations, and commerce and to the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education by Feb. 1, 2021.