

BY REPRESENTATIVES AUSTIN BADON AND STIAES

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the

3 Recovery School District to study jointly the feasibility of building a high school at

4 the site of the former Alfred Lawless High School in the Lower Ninth Ward of the

5 city of New Orleans and to submit jointly a written report of findings and

6 recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee

7 on Education not later than sixty days prior to beginning of the 2012 Regular Session

8 of the Legislature.

9 WHEREAS, Alfred Lawless High School, known also as Lawless High School, was

10 located in the 5300 block of Law Street in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, just a few

11 blocks from one of the levee breaches during Hurricane Katrina along the Industrial Canal;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, Lawless High School suffered catastrophic damage in Hurricane

14 Katrina, and after the Federal Emergency Management Agency deemed it sufficiently

15 damaged, the school was demolished; and

16 WHEREAS, many residents of the Lower Ninth Ward were devastated by the razing

17 of the school, which was a true neighborhood institution and was deeply beloved by its

18 students, faculty, staff, and alumni and by the community as a whole; and

1 WHEREAS, Lawless High School opened in the early 1960s and served grades eight
2 through twelve, and before Hurricane Katrina, it served approximately eight hundred
3 students; and

4 WHEREAS, building a school, viewed by many as the cornerstone of a community,
5 certainly would reinforce this unique neighborhood's passionate and steadfast revitalization
6 efforts; and

7 WHEREAS, in addition to meeting the educational needs of the community, building
8 a high school at this historic site would serve as a welcome and hopeful example of the
9 ongoing restoration and rebuilding that is possible throughout the Lower Ninth Ward, the
10 city of New Orleans, and all hurricane-affected areas in Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, there is both a strong need and strong community support for the
12 building of a high school in this neighborhood; and

13 WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary that the feasibility of building a high
14 school at the site of the former Alfred Lawless High School receive a thorough examination.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Recovery
17 School District to study jointly the feasibility of building a high school at the site of the
18 former Alfred Lawless High School in the Lower Ninth Ward of the city of New Orleans and
19 to submit jointly, in compliance with R.S. 24:771 and 772, a written report of findings and
20 recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
21 Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2012 Regular Session of the
22 Legislature.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
24 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, to the
25 superintendent of the Recovery School District, and to the state 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)]

Austin Badon

HCR No. 32

Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and Recovery School District study jointly the feasibility of building a high school at the site of the former Alfred Lawless High School in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans and submit jointly a written report of findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days before the beginning of the 2012 R.S.