

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNS AND SENATOR NEVERS

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education work in
3 collaboration with the State Library of Louisiana and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library
4 Network to ensure the funding of library research databases and to negotiate the most
5 advantageous prices for school libraries in Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, libraries play an essential role in a free and democratic society,
7 improving the quality of life of citizens throughout the state and contributing to the learning
8 environment at every level of education; and

9 WHEREAS, use of libraries is strong even in the age of the Internet, as forty-three
10 percent of Louisiana households do not have Internet access and rely on libraries for such
11 access; and

12 WHEREAS, fostering literacy and lifelong learning is still the foundation of library
13 programs, but the definition of literacy has expanded to encompass twenty-first century
14 literacy skills, including the ability to use computer-based and online resources effectively;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, school libraries are many citizens' first introduction to the library
17 learning experience and are where many individuals are first provided instruction in basic
18 computer literacy, Internet search skills, and library database use; and

1 WHEREAS, school libraries can more effectively foster lifelong learning for all
2 citizens of Louisiana by providing access to a broad range of online library databases, which
3 are edited, validated resources providing access to reliable and authoritative information; and

4 WHEREAS, online library databases have become core resources that all school
5 libraries need to meet the information need of students and teachers, and these databases are
6 subscription-based services with associated annual costs; and

7 WHEREAS, the most cost-effective means of providing online library databases is
8 through contracts that make them available to all school libraries with the goal of adequately
9 educating Louisiana's citizens and therefore improving the quality of life in Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, it is critical that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
11 Education collaborate with the State Library of Louisiana and LOUIS: The Louisiana
12 Library Network in the effort to maximize educational opportunities for students throughout
13 the state.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education work in
16 cooperation with the State Library of Louisiana and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network
17 to ensure the funding of library research databases and to negotiate the most advantageous
18 prices for school libraries in Louisiana.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
20 to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state
21 superintendent of education, the state librarian of Louisiana, and the executive director of
22 LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network.

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)]

Downs

HCR No. 150

Requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state library, and LOUIS: The La. Library Network work cooperatively to ensure the funding of library research databases and negotiate the most advantageous prices for the state's school libraries.