

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study issues related to the assessment of foreign exchange students and to submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public educational system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, according to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rule, Title 28, Part CXI, Section 3505, foreign exchange students shall take the appropriate assessment for their enrolled grade during the scheduled assessment period; and

WHEREAS, since foreign exchange students are expected to be fully proficient in English, they are not eligible for test accommodations; and

WHEREAS, though foreign exchange students are expected to be fully proficient in English, there is concern that some are not and that this can be detrimental to both the students' learning experiences and School Performance Scores used in the state's school and district accountability program; and

WHEREAS, BESE rule, Part CXI, Section 3307, provides for certain approved accommodations in the testing of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, including extended time/adjusted time, individual/small group instruction, provision of English/native language word-to-word dictionary, the test being read aloud, and the test being administered by an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher or by the individual providing language services; and

WHEREAS, foreign language students' educational experiences, as well as the chances of both the students and their schools being successful in the area of assessment, might improve if certain test accommodations, perhaps similar to those provided for LEP students, were provided for foreign exchange students; 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 imperative that issues related to the assessment of foreign exchange students receive a thorough evaluation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study issues related to the assessment of foreign exchange students and to submit, in compliance with R.S. 24:771 and 772, a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such issues shall include but not be limited to an examination of the English proficiency levels of foreign exchange students, the effect of the assessment of such students on School Performance Scores, and the possibility of allowing certain test accommodations in the assessment of such students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to 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