

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAZEL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education jointly to study the feasibility of granting a Louisiana high school diploma to successful completers of adult education programs that meet state standards and to report their findings and recommendations at least sixty days prior to the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, pursuant to current law, the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges is required to establish, operate, and maintain a statewide adult education program and adopt regulations as may be necessary for the provision of such program; and

WHEREAS, in fulfilling this responsibility, the board recognizes that individual educational achievement is important to the future potential of Louisiana's citizens, families, communities, and economy, and of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the board further recognizes that statistics comparing educational attainment with income show that there is a significant correlation between level of education and income earning potential; and

WHEREAS, given these statistics, the board also recognizes that it is imperative that Louisiana continuously seek to improve education services available to our adult population which currently does not enjoy the opportunity and benefits that accrue to those with at least a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, information from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System reveals that there are approximately one hundred thousand Louisiana citizens, ages eighteen through twenty-four, who do not have at least a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, many persons who complete an adult education program in Louisiana seek and attain a General Educational Development (GED) credential and according to the

Louisiana Community and Technical College System, although this is a worthwhile credential, it alone is no longer sufficient to guarantee a sustainable wage; and

WHEREAS, current law gives the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education the power to award certificates and issue diplomas for successful completion of programs of study; and

WHEREAS, studies show that as today's job market becomes more and more competitive, a growing number of employers are mandating at least a high school diploma as a requirement for employment; and

WHEREAS, measures must be taken to ensure that those citizens who are seeking employment in today's competitive market, including those who have successfully completed an adult education program, are not forced into lower-paying jobs and less than fulfilling careers, but rather are given ample opportunities for success and the other benefits that come as a result of earning a high school diploma.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education jointly to study the feasibility of granting a Louisiana high school diploma to persons who successfully complete an adult education program that meets state standards and to report their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education at least sixty days prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and 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