

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Department of Education to study and evaluate the implementation of state law regarding required physical activity in public schools and its effectiveness in combating obesity and to submit a written report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children.

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:17.1 requires certain physical activity in schools; and

WHEREAS, each public school that includes any of the grades kindergarten through eight is to provide at least thirty minutes each school day of quality moderate to vigorous physical activity for students, and no later than September first of each year, each public elementary school is to report to its local public school board on compliance, with the local public school board reporting to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education no later than October first; and

WHEREAS, suitably adapted physical activity is to be included as part of the individual education plans for students with chronic health problems, other disabling conditions, or other special needs that preclude participation in regular physical activity; and

WHEREAS, any student not enrolled in a physical education course at a public secondary school is encouraged to participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity commensurate with the ability of the student for a minimum of thirty minutes per day to develop good health, physical fitness, and improve motor coordination and physical skills; and

WHEREAS, an outreach and communication plan consisting of current information and research on health, nutrition, and physical education and fitness issues is to be developed pursuant to the collaborative efforts of the Department of Health and Hospitals; Department of Education; Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention and Management; Louisiana Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, the outreach and communication plan is to be disseminated to each local public school board and made available to parents and students; and

WHEREAS, each local public school board is to establish a school health advisory council to advise the board on physical activity for students, physical and health education, nutrition, and overall student health so that:

(1) The council may advise the board on issues relative to compliance with school vending machine restrictions, use of physical fitness assessment results, and school recess policies.

(2) The council members are to be appointed by the school board and include parents of students and individuals representing the community, all serving without compensation; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need for targeted intervention strategies that address and produce sustained results among African-American children battling obesity and that reduce childhood obesity by the development of and the support of sustainable programs to combat childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to determine the degree of implementation of the state law regarding required physical activity in public schools and its effectiveness in combating obesity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Education is hereby authorized and directed to study and evaluate the implementation of state law regarding required physical activity in public schools and its effectiveness in combating obesity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education shall submit a written report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children, on or before December 31, 2013, of its findings as to whether or not public schools, local public school boards, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are complying with the reporting requirement of RS 17:17.1; the degree and extent that public schools are actually implementing the required physical activity requirement; whether the development of the outreach and communication plan has occurred and whether or not it has been distributed to local public school boards and made available to parents and students; and whether or not each local public school board has established a school health advisory council; the makeup

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of each health advisory council; whether the health advisory councils are meeting; and what recommendations the health advisory councils have made to their local public school boards over the last five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Select Committee on Women and Children hold a public meeting before March 1, 2014, on the report submitted by the Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE