

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVE PYLANT

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education and others study potential funding sources for online courses offered through the Course Choice Program and opportunities for increasing broadband access for students

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in
3 collaboration with the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and the
4 Louisiana School Boards Association, to study potential funding sources for online
5 or virtual courses offered through the Course Choice Program and opportunities for
6 increasing broadband access for students throughout the state and to submit a written
7 report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and
8 the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning
9 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

14 WHEREAS, current law provides for the Course Choice Program, through which
15 students may enroll in courses offered by a course provider; and

16 WHEREAS, current law includes online or virtual education providers in the
17 definition of course provider and requires that course providers be authorized by the State
18 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); and

19 WHEREAS, current law states that "online or virtual course providers can serve as
20 quality course providers for students who desire additional access to high quality courses,

1 especially but not limited to students enrolled in low-performing public schools, students
2 who for reasons of geography may not be able to exercise their right to educational choice,
3 and students who may desire an alternative schooling schedule or calendar"; and

4 WHEREAS, BESE policy provides for a series of requirements that must be met by
5 online course providers, including following the International Association for K-12 Online
6 Learning (iNACOL) National Standards for Quality Online Courses; ensuring that all
7 instructors are evaluated and delivering instruction in accordance with the iNACOL National
8 Standards for Quality Online Teaching; maintaining a program that is in alignment with the
9 iNACOL National Standards for Quality Online Programs; having a staff/instructor
10 acceptable use policy for technology; and providing an electronic communication policy that
11 complies with federal and state law, including information on Internet safety practices and
12 policies; and

13 WHEREAS, BESE has authorized several online or virtual course providers to offer
14 courses through the Course Choice Program, and numerous other states are providing
15 opportunities for students to enroll in online or virtual courses; and

16 WHEREAS, broadband access is a key factor in the continuing development of
17 online and virtual education in Louisiana, and all available avenues for increasing such
18 access for students throughout the state should be explored; and

19 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
20 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that potential
21 funding sources for online or virtual courses offered through the Course Choice Program and
22 opportunities for increasing broadband access for students throughout the state receive a
23 thorough evaluation.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration
26 with the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and the Louisiana School Boards
27 Association, to study potential funding sources for online or virtual courses offered through
28 the Course Choice Program and opportunities for increasing broadband access for students
29 throughout the state and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions to the House

1 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days
2 prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include but not be limited to
4 the identification of local, state, federal, and other funding sources for such courses,
5 measures being taken by other states with respect to funding online or virtual courses and
6 increasing broadband access for students, and any recommendations for legislation related
7 to the issue.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state
10 superintendent of education, the president of the Louisiana Association of School
11 Superintendents, and the president of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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)]

Pylant

HCR No. 156

Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the La. Assoc. of School Superintendents and the La. School Boards Assoc., study potential funding sources for online or virtual courses offered through the Course Choice Program and opportunities for increasing broadband access for students throughout the state and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days before the 2014 R.S. Provides that the report shall include but not be limited to the identification of local, state, federal, and other funding sources for such courses, measures being taken by other states with respect to funding online or virtual courses and opportunities for increasing broadband access for students, and any recommendations for related legislation.