SLS 14RS-158

## **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Requests the Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the availability of water for student consumption at elementary and secondary schools.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to assess water accessibility in
3	Louisiana schools and report its findings to the legislature and the State Board of
4	Elementary and Secondary Education.
5	WHEREAS, water is vital to the physical and cognitive health of children; and
6	WHEREAS, dehydration can lead to temporary cognitive impairments such as
7	reduced concentration and limited short-term memory; and
8	WHEREAS, choosing sugar-sweetened beverages as alternatives to water may lead
9	to weight gain, insulin resistance or type-2 diabetes, some forms of cancer, and tooth decay;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, almost thirty-one percent of Louisiana youths report drinking at least
12	two sodas per day; and
13	WHEREAS, the federal Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 requires school
14	districts to make free, potable drinking water available to students in food service areas
15	during meal times; and
16	WHEREAS, while Louisiana's plumbing code requires schools to provide one
17	drinking fountain for every three classrooms and at least one drinking fountain per floor,
18	school personnel have revealed that water fountains are often out of order and that students

1	do not like the taste of the unfiltered water; and
2	WHEREAS, schools may select specific methods for serving water, such as disposal
3	cups and reusable water bottles; and
4	WHEREAS, since the current state of water access in Louisiana schools, both during
5	meal times and throughout the school day, is unknown, further field research is needed to
6	determine each school's needs and the best ways to promote water consumption among
7	youth.
8	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9	urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to assess water accessibility in
10	Louisiana schools.
11	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall report its findings to the
12	legislature and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education no later than
13	February 1, 2015.
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15	state Superintendent of Education and the secretary of the Department of Health and
16	Hospitals.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

## DIGEST

## Heitmeier

SCR No. 96

Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to assess water accessibility in Louisiana schools.

Requires DHH to report its findings to the legislature and BESE no later than February 1, 2015.