

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE OURSO

SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: Creates a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts in Louisiana

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts for
3 elementary and secondary education in Louisiana and to submit a written report of
4 findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee on Education
5 and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the
6 beginning of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

11 WHEREAS, in keeping with this goal, the state's public educational system provides
12 learning environments and experiences to the children of this state through public elementary
13 and secondary schools administered by the various parishes, cities, and other local public
14 school districts throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana's public educational system does not include independent
16 school districts; and

17 WHEREAS, an independent school district is a type of school district used in some
18 states for elementary and secondary education which operates as an entity that is
19 independent and separate from any municipality, county, or state; and

20 WHEREAS, independent school districts have the authority to establish and manage
21 diverse educational opportunities within their set geographical boundaries and may include

1 such benefits as increased school choice for parents and students and increased school
2 efficiency and teacher pay through healthy competition among schools; and

3 WHEREAS, other advantages of independent school districts may include better
4 serving student needs and priorities and positive impacts on the local economy and
5 taxpayers; and

6 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
7 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a balanced
8 group of experts thoroughly study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts
9 for elementary and secondary education in Louisiana.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 create a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts for
12 elementary and secondary education in Louisiana and to submit a written report of findings,
13 conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate
14 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular
15 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
17 following members:

- 18 (1) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- 19 (2) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or his
20 designee.
- 21 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.
- 22 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.
- 23 (5) A member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, selected by the speaker
24 of the House.
- 25 (6) A member of the Louisiana Senate, selected by the president of the Senate.
- 26 (7) A representative from each of the following organizations selected by the
27 presiding officer of the organization:
 - 28 (a) The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.
 - 29 (b) The Council for a Better Louisiana.
 - 30 (c) The Louisiana School Boards Association.

1 (d) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

2 (e) The Louisiana Association of Principals.

3 (f) The Louisiana Association of Educators.

4 (g) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

5 (h) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.

6 (i) The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

7 (j) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

8 (k) The Louisiana Parent Teacher Organization.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the task force shall
10 consider all of the following:

11 (1) The basic process for establishing independent school districts.

12 (2) The financial, economical, demographic, legal, and geographic implications and
13 effects of the establishment of independent school districts including but not limited to any
14 projected sales tax and property tax revenue streams for such districts and how state funding
15 will be provided to the districts.

16 (3) The enrollment capacity of such newly created districts relative to the demand
17 for public school services.

18 (4) The degree to which the existing capital infrastructures can accommodate such
19 enrollment and the extent to which future capital expansion may be required.

20 (5) Compliance with all federal desegregation orders as may be applicable.

21 (6) Any other information that the task force determines necessary or proper to fully
22 complete the study.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education or his
24 designee shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the task force in performing its
25 duties and, by September 1, 2015, convening the task force for its first meeting, at which the
26 task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that
27 it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without
29 compensation.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state
3 superintendent of education who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the
4 organizations from which the members of the task force are being selected or designated.

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)]

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2015 Regular Session

Ourso

Creates a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts for elementary and secondary education in La. and to submit a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees prior to the 2016 R.S. Provides for task force membership, duties, and matters for consideration.