

Regular Session, 2004

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVES GALLOT, ALEXANDER, BADON, CRANE, DOWNS,  
FANNIN, FUTRELL, HONEY, HUDSON, KENNEY, M. POWELL, T. POWELL,  
RITCHIE, JANE SMITH, AND TRAHAN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study cost issues relative to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and to determine any potential costs associated with changing the state's school and district accountability system to comply with the act and, should the state not comply with the act, any potential loss of federal funding.

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), which requires the development of state educational standards, tests to measure against those standards, and collection and reporting of testing data; and

WHEREAS, NCLB contains several very expensive mandates for which congress has not provided adequate funds to the states; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana created a school accountability program in 1997 that has been ranked the best in the nation and has worked diligently to meet the requirements of NCLB; and

WHEREAS, the state's school accountability program is being implemented by city, parish, and other local public school systems at considerable cost; and

WHEREAS, the burden of meeting new standards is falling on teachers and school employees; and

WHEREAS, city, parish, and other local public school systems and their faculty and staff need and deserve adequate resources to accomplish the goals of NCLB; and

WHEREAS, costs to individual states associated with NCLB mandates result from implementing assessment and accountability systems, data collection, teacher quality requirements, and new standards for paraprofessionals, among additional factors; and

WHEREAS, many of the mandates inherent in NCLB inflict costs on the states above what they receive in federal money, and unfunded mandates included in NCLB represent a serious imposition on individual states; and

WHEREAS, any federal mandate for which there are insufficient funds provided is sure to divert resources away from other laudable objectives of individual states; and

WHEREAS, it is unreasonable to expect the state of Louisiana and city, parish, and other local public school systems to meet federally imposed standards without federal appropriation of adequate funds to meet such standards; and

WHEREAS, adequate federal funding is a necessity if states are to fully meet the goals of NCLB; and

WHEREAS, it is only appropriate that a study be conducted to evaluate the potential costs associated with the implementation of NCLB.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study cost issues relative to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and to determine any potential costs associated with changing the state's school and district accountability system to comply with the act and, should the state not comply with the act, any potential loss of federal funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature further requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to submit a written report on its findings to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education prior to the beginning of the 2005 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to 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