

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 231

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize and include increased per pupil funding to parish and city school systems, as provided in House Bill No. 1 of the 2015 Regular Session, as part of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year base per pupil amount when developing and adopting a minimum foundation program formula for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and to maintain at least that combined amount of per pupil funding for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year minimum foundation program formula.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 13(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and adopt, annually, a formula which is to be used to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program of education in all public elementary and secondary schools as well as to allocate equitably the funds to parish and city school systems; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2015, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted such a formula to determine the cost and allocation of funds for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year and on March 13, 2015, submitted it to the legislature; and

WHEREAS, such formula was timely submitted to the legislature, and an instrument providing for legislative approval of the formula was introduced for consideration, House Concurrent Resolution No. 18; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 passed the House but was deferred by the Senate Committee on Education on June 4, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the state constitution provides that if the legislature does not approve the recommendation of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the minimum foundation program formula last approved remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, the last valid minimum foundation program formula was approved in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 of the 2014 Regular Session; and

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that increasing the base per pupil amount of funding for public schools by one and three hundred seventy-five thousandths percent (1.375%) would raise that amount from \$3,961 to \$4,015 per student, generating money to partially cover inflationary increases in expenditures and critical education initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the base per pupil amount of funding in the minimum foundation program may be adjusted only through legislative approval of a formula adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that provides for such an adjustment; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide for an increase in the base per pupil amount of funding in the minimum foundation program, the legislature intends to amend House Bill No. 1 of the 2015 Regular Session to provide for such an increase outside of the minimum foundation program formula by directing the state Department of Education to allocate such funds in the same manner in which they would have been allocated pursuant to the minimum foundation program formula; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the legislature that this increase in the per pupil amount, although provided for outside of the minimum foundation program formula for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, be recognized and included by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as a minimum base per pupil amount in future years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize and include the increased base per pupil amount in funding to parish and city school systems, as provided in House Bill No. 1 of the 2015 Regular Session, as part of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year base per pupil amount when developing and adopting a minimum foundation program formula for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges and requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to maintain at least this combined base per pupil amount for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year minimum foundation program formula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, state superintendent of education, commissioner of administration, and governor.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE