

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN AND SENATOR HENRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, to study best health and safety practices for the use of school-issued digital devices and to report findings of the study to the legislative committees on education and the legislative committees on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, it is the public policy of this state to protect the health and safety of children while they are in school or using school equipment; and

WHEREAS, schools have become increasingly reliant upon student use of digital devices in learning, which affords opportunities for innovation in the delivery of instruction but also poses a risk to students' health; and

WHEREAS, health and safety hazards associated with the use of computers and other digital devices are well-documented; and

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States Department of Labor offers resources on safe use of computer workstations for adults in places of employment; however, the federal government has issued no comparable health and safety guidance relating to use of digital devices by children in school classrooms, and Louisiana, along with the overwhelming majority of U.S. states, does not currently address this specific issue in law, regulation, or other policy; and

WHEREAS, the use of school-issued digital devices can have harmful effects on children's health, particularly with respect to obesity, muscle and bone development, sleep patterns, and eye health; and

WHEREAS, the increasing amount of digital device use required by schools is a public health concern that merits serious consideration by this state's policymaking board for elementary and secondary education and the legislature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, to study best health and safety practices for the use of school-issued digital devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall report findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the assistant secretary of the office of public health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE