

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 220

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRICE

SCHOOLS/FINANCE-MFP: Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education reconvene a minimum foundation program task force to determine the actual cost of public education and identify potential funding mechanisms

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to reconvene  
3 a minimum foundation program (MFP) task force to determine the actual cost of  
4 providing public education in Louisiana and identify all potential funding  
5 mechanisms to enable school systems to meet this cost and to submit a written report  
6 of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later  
7 than February 1, 2015.

8 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana requires that the legislature provide for  
9 the education of the people of the state and further requires that the legislature establish and  
10 maintain a public education system; and

11 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana further provides that it is the goal of the  
12 public education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of  
13 human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that  
14 every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

15 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has  
16 the constitutional responsibility of annually developing, adopting, and submitting to the  
17 legislature for its approval and funding a formula to be used to determine the cost of a  
18 minimum foundation program of education in all public elementary and secondary schools  
19 as well as to equitably allocate the funds to local school systems; and

1           WHEREAS, the constitution provides that the legislature may not amend the formula  
2 that is adopted by the board and submitted to the legislature for its consideration but may  
3 only return an unsatisfactory formula to the board along with recommendations to the board  
4 for an amended formula; and

5           WHEREAS, for the purpose of providing BESE with advisory recommendations for  
6 the MFP formula for 2014-2015 and beyond, BESE formed an MFP task force that met from  
7 September of 2013 through January of 2014; and

8           WHEREAS, on January 6, 2014, the task force held its final meeting and adopted  
9 several recommendations, including a 2.75 percent rate increase in 2014-2015 base per pupil  
10 amount funding, additional funding for career education and special education, expanded  
11 course opportunities, a technology readiness overview for each school district, and a study  
12 of the MFP formula by financial and policy experts in order to restructure it for greater  
13 clarity, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness; and

14           WHEREAS, there is concern among some education stakeholders that the task force  
15 did not successfully determine the actual cost of educating Louisiana's students, and they  
16 have expressed that this determination is an essential part of ensuring that the MFP formula  
17 meets the needs of students and the school systems that educate them and is a question that  
18 warrants further study; and

19           WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every  
20 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that there be  
21 continued study of certain issues relative to the minimum foundation program formula so  
22 that determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide experiences and  
23 opportunities to students that help them succeed in all aspects of life.

24           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and  
26 Secondary Education to reconvene a minimum foundation program (MFP) task force to  
27 determine the actual cost of providing public education in Louisiana and identify all  
28 potential funding mechanisms to enable school systems to meet this cost and to submit a  
29 written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not  
30 later February 1, 2015.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force include but not  
2 be limited to individuals representing BESE, the state Department of Education, the  
3 Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents,  
4 the Louisiana Association of School Business Officers, Council for a Better Louisiana, the  
5 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the Louisiana Association of Public Charter  
6 Schools, the Louisiana Association of Educators, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, and  
7 the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
9 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state  
10 superintendent of education.

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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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Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education reconvene a minimum foundation program (MFP) task force to determine the actual cost of providing public education in La. and identify all potential funding mechanisms to enable school systems to meet this cost and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education by Feb. 1, 2015.