

1 WHEREAS, BESE is also responsible for fixing the qualifications and prescribing
2 the duties of the local superintendents of schools, but the board is constitutionally prohibited
3 from controlling the business affairs of a city, parish, or other local public school board or
4 the selection or removal of its officers and employees; and

5 WHEREAS, in addition to its constitutional duties, BESE also has numerous
6 responsibilities as prescribed by law that generally pertain to school approval and regulation,
7 budgetary responsibilities, curriculum, assessment and accountability programs, and teacher
8 and administrator qualifications, certification, and education; and

9 WHEREAS, the state Department of Education is statutorily created in the executive
10 branch of state government to be responsible for the functions of the state with which it is
11 vested; and

12 WHEREAS, these functions include managing, budgeting, and allocating state and
13 federal funds to school districts and programs, establishing a statewide curriculum and
14 standards, administering the student assessment and school accountability programs, and
15 providing ancillary educational services such as nutrition and transportation; and

16 WHEREAS, many are concerned that the functions and duties of BESE and the state
17 Department of Education are not clearly delineated and may overlap in some instances; and

18 WHEREAS, there are also concerns that there may be a great deal of duplication of
19 effort between the board and the department in various areas due to many closely related
20 responsibilities; and

21 WHEREAS, these concerns have raised serious questions about the abilities of the
22 board and the department to successfully perform the duties and functions assigned to them
23 through the constitution and the laws of this state in maintaining a public education system
24 and improving the quality of public education guaranteed to all Louisiana children; and

25 WHEREAS, it is imperative that a study be conducted to examine the powers, duties,
26 and functions of BESE and the state Department of Education and review those areas where
27 there is need for improved and efficient operation and management of functions and
28 responsibilities, elimination of duplication, and better and more responsive performance of
29 such powers, duties, and functions toward meeting the educational needs of the public school
30 children of this state.

1 THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests
2 the House Committee on Education to study the powers, duties, and functions of the State
3 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education with
4 a view toward more effective performance in meeting the state's educational needs and to
5 report its findings to the House of Representatives not later than February 1, 2014.

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)]

Barrow

HSR No. 10

Requests the House Committee on Education to study the powers, duties, and functions of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Dept. of Education with a view toward more effective performance in meeting the state's educational needs and to report its findings by Feb. 1, 2014.