

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Education to establish a study group to investigate the current state of agricultural education in elementary and secondary schools and make recommendations to the legislature and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with respect to possible improvements in agricultural education and the possible implementation of a pilot program for an agricultural immersion curriculum.

WHEREAS, agribusiness in Louisiana generates over thirty billion dollars annually and is considered a "Key Industry" by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, last year, according to the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana's farmers and ranchers generated over eleven billion dollars in income, which is a Louisiana record; and

WHEREAS, agricultural and agribusiness education is essential for the continued development of this important business sector of Louisiana's economy; and

WHEREAS, late in the last century, in an effort to update agricultural and agribusiness education in the nation's schools, the National Council for Agricultural Education issued a report entitled "Reinventing Agricultural Education for the Year 2020"; and

WHEREAS, partly in response to this report, in 2003 Louisiana adopted the Agriculture Education Content Standards Curriculum Framework, cited as Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 28, Part LXV, Bulletin 106; and

WHEREAS, other states have adopted agriculture immersion programs, including a school farm, so that students may develop character, teamwork building, responsibility, and learn interactively about agriculture and agribusiness; and

WHEREAS, ten years have passed since Louisiana adopted its current curriculum framework.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby urges and requests the Department of Education to establish a study group to investigate the current state of agricultural education in elementary and secondary schools and to provide recommendations to the legislature and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for improvements in agricultural education and the possible implementation of a pilot program for an agricultural immersion curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recommends that the study group consist of the following members:

1. The chair of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.
2. The chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development or his designee.
3. The chair of the House Committee on Education or his designee.
4. The chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development or his designee.
5. The state superintendent of education or his designee.
6. The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee.
7. The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center or his designee.
8. The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center or his designee.
9. A representative of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Center appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
10. The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau or his designee.
11. The president of the Louisiana Agriscience Teachers Association or his designee.
12. The president of the Louisiana chapter of the Future Farmers of America or his designee.
13. A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
14. A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

15. An at-large member appointed by the president of the Senate.

16. An at-large member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group at its organizational meeting shall elect a chair and such other officers as it determines necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any official action of the study group shall require the affirmative approval of the majority of the quorum present and voting, a majority of the appointed members constituting a quorum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this study committee shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education shall submit a written report of the study group's findings and recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the legislature not later than February 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES