

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the admission and expulsion criteria in charter schools and the impact of that criteria on at-risk and special needs students.

WHEREAS, charter schools are independent, tuition-free, public schools open to all students, regardless of income, gender, race or religion; and

WHEREAS, although charter schools run independently of traditional school districts, they are funded by Louisiana taxpayers as public schools; and

WHEREAS, at-risk students and students with special needs may be under-represented in Louisiana charter schools compared to traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, the admission and expulsion criteria in Louisiana charter schools may be a contributing factor to such under-representation; and

WHEREAS, the expulsion rate in Louisiana is five times the national rate; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of research showing an association between out-of-school suspension and expulsion, delinquency, substance abuse, and school dropouts; and

WHEREAS, school districts are legally bound to accept and provide appropriate services for students with special needs; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are required to enroll any student who applies unless that school is full; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the criteria for admission to charter schools will determine if such criteria, in any way, adversely impacts the admission of students due to their disabilities; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation of admission and expulsion criteria in Louisiana charter schools may provide insight into the impact such criteria has on at-risk and special needs students.

**ENROLLED**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the admission and expulsion criteria in charter schools and the impact of that criteria on at-risk and special needs students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall submit a written report of its findings to the Senate and House Committees on Education no later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES