

1 Regents; fixing of qualifications and duties of superintendents of parish schools; control and
2 supervision of parish and city school board systems; and prescription of school books and
3 other materials of instruction; and

4 WHEREAS, the constitution further provides for a superintendent of education for
5 public elementary and secondary education who shall be elected by the state's electors;
6 however, the constitution authorizes the legislature to provide for the appointment, in lieu
7 of election, of specified elected officials, including the superintendent, by a law enacted by
8 a two-thirds vote of the legislature; and

9 WHEREAS, the constitution requires the legislature to prescribe qualifications and
10 method of appointment should the office become appointive and authorizes the legislature,
11 by a two-thirds vote, to re-establish the office as elective; Act No. 444 of the 1985 Regular
12 Session of the Legislature, which became effective on March 14, 1988, made the office of
13 state superintendent appointive and provided for BESE's appointment of the superintendent;
14 the constitution provides that the superintendent's qualifications and other powers, functions,
15 duties, and responsibilities shall be provided by law; and

16 WHEREAS, with this structure of elementary and secondary education governance
17 in place, Louisiana measures near or at the bottom of many education rankings; for example,
18 in January of 2015, *Education Week* magazine gave Louisiana a D+ and ranked it forty-
19 fourth in the nation in its Quality Counts: 2015 state report cards, and in the fall of 2014, the
20 United States Chamber of Commerce gave Louisiana's education system a grade of F in the
21 categories of academic achievement, academic achievement for low-income and minority
22 students, return on investment (a measure of student achievement relative to state spending),
23 postsecondary education and workforce readiness, and international competitiveness; and

24 WHEREAS, fundamental changes to the way Louisiana's education system is
25 governed at the state level may afford Louisiana's students their best chance of success in
26 the classroom and in life; and

27 WHEREAS, other states may have lessons to offer Louisiana in terms of their
28 education governance structures, and these merit serious evaluation and consideration; and

29 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
30 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a balanced

1 group of experts thoroughly study the governance of public elementary and secondary
2 education in Louisiana.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 create a task force to study the governance of public elementary and secondary education in
5 Louisiana and to submit a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to
6 the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than
7 sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
9 following members, who shall serve without compensation:

10 (1) The state superintendent of education or his designee.

11 (2) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or his
12 designee.

13 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.

14 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.

15 (5) A member of the Louisiana House of Representatives selected by the speaker of
16 the House.

17 (6) A member of the Louisiana Senate selected by the president of the Senate.

18 (7) A representative from each of the following organizations selected by the
19 presiding officer of the organization:

20 (a) The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.

21 (b) The Council for a Better Louisiana.

22 (c) The Louisiana School Boards Association.

23 (d) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

24 (e) The Louisiana Association of Principals.

25 (f) The Louisiana Association of Educators.

26 (g) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

27 (h) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.

28 (i) The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

29 (j) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

30 (k) The Louisiana Parent Teacher Organization.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force's report shall include an
2 examination of all of the following:

3 (1) The advisability, feasibility, and potential effects of abolishing the State Board
4 of Elementary and Secondary Education, transferring its roles, duties, and responsibilities
5 to the state superintendent of education, and providing for an elected rather than an
6 appointed state superintendent of education.

7 (2) The common characteristics of education governance structures in states with
8 successful and highly regarded public education systems.

9 (3) Recommendations, if any, for legislation related to school governance.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education or his
11 designee shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the task force in performing its
12 duties and, by September 1, 2015, convening the task force for its first meeting, at which the
13 task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that
14 it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state
17 superintendent of education, who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the
18 organizations from which the members of the task force are being selected or designated.

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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Harrison

Creates a task force to study the governance of public elementary and secondary education in La. and provides for the submission of a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days before the 2016 R.S. Provides that the report shall include an examination of the advisability, feasibility, and potential results of abolishing BESE, transferring its roles, duties, and responsibilities to the state superintendent of education, and providing for an elected rather than an appointed state superintendent of education; the common characteristics of state governance structures in states with successful and highly regarded public education systems; and recommendations, if any, for legislation related to school governance.

Provides for 17 members who shall serve without compensation. Provides that state superintendent of education or his designee shall designate staff to assist the task force and shall convene the first meeting by Sept. 1, 2015.