SLS 15RS-1486 **ORIGINAL**

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

STUDENTS. Requests each local public school board to provide for high school student interaction with the board in an informative, advisory, and nonvoting capacity.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide for high school student interaction with the school board in an informative, advisory, and nonvoting capacity.

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

WHEREAS, providing students with civic learning environments in high school will afford young people the opportunity to develop to their full potential as active citizens in a representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, while civic engagement by young people serves to enhance and make communities in Louisiana stronger as they grow to be informed citizens, civic participation as student representatives to local school boards will allow young people to develop strong life-skills through interaction with policymakers while representing their peers in a manner that will impact local policies that reflect the needs and attitudes of the next generation; and

WHEREAS, young people will be empowered with direct representation and provided an opportunity to experience the district decisionmaking process in those decisions

that affect their learning environments; and

WHEREAS, creating an opportunity for a meaningful dialogue between school board members and students in the school district will serve as a source of regular feedback from the young people who are directly impacted by school board policy; and

WHEREAS, experiential learning through youth engagement at the local school board level will allow the leaders of tomorrow to learn firsthand from the leaders of today.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide for high school student interaction with the school board in an informative, advisory, and nonvoting capacity through methods such as a superintendent advisory council, a student affairs committee, or appointment of a high school student from the school district to serve as a representative to the board in matters directly involving students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any decision to include such student representation shall be made by each city, parish, and other local public school board and based on selection criteria determined by the respective board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in determining selection criteria, each school board may consider the student sustaining at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average, the student's interest in civic engagement and bettering the local community, and recommendations from school representatives, such as the student's school principal or guidance counselor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Louisiana School Boards Association.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

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