

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 175

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a group to study and make recommendations to the legislature relative to group health insurance coverage afforded to charter school employees, both active and retired.

WHEREAS, many charter school employees, including those on leave from their home school system, participate in the group health insurance program offered by their employing charter school and do not have the option of participating in the group health insurance program offered by their home school system; and

WHEREAS, many teachers have vested in, and are relying on, continuation in the group health insurance program offered by their home school system for health benefits during their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of charter schools in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the increasing number of failing schools eligible for transfer to the Recovery School District highlight the need to find a workable solution for local school systems, charter schools, and teachers and other school employees regarding the provision of group health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, there are many issues to be considered in establishing a fair and equitable means of providing group health insurance coverage to both active and retired employees of charter schools including eligibility, portability, payment of premiums, and computation of years of service; and

WHEREAS, discussion of legislation introduced during the 2008 Regular Session seeking to address these matters revealed numerous questions and issues that warranted considerable research and discussion by all affected education stakeholders before legislative action was taken.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a group to study and make recommendations to the legislature relative to group health insurance coverage afforded to charter school employees, both active and retired.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall be convened by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall be comprised of members representing the Recovery School District, the Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the Louisiana Association of Educators, the office of state group benefits, school districts that have had schools transferred to the Recovery School District or have schools eligible for transfer to the Recovery School District, charter schools and charter school associations, and other pertinent stakeholder groups as deemed appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written report of findings and recommendations be submitted to the Senate Committee on Education not later than February 1, 2009.

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

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE