



1 funded early childhood care and education programs and the support of regional pilot  
2 programs; and

3 WHEREAS, the implementation of Act 3 has appropriately focused on increasing  
4 the quality of care and education, preparing children for kindergarten, and honoring family  
5 choices; and

6 WHEREAS, it is imperative that all publicly funded early childhood care and  
7 education programs offer high quality care and education to families, providing a safe,  
8 nurturing environment for children and preparing all children for kindergarten; and

9 WHEREAS, the quality of care and education is determined, in large part, by the  
10 ability of early learning centers to employ capable individuals as caregivers and teachers;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, publicly funded early childhood care and education programs in  
13 Louisiana are not currently funded equitably, contributing to the inability of some early  
14 learning centers and programs to meet the state's quality standards and its expectation that  
15 children will be ready for kindergarten; and

16 WHEREAS, fewer than thirty percent of at-risk children ages birth to four in  
17 Louisiana have access to a publicly funded early childhood care and education program; and

18 WHEREAS, Louisiana currently appropriates no state general fund money and no  
19 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) money to early care and education  
20 services for children under age four; and

21 WHEREAS, the state should make every reasonable attempt to equitably fund family  
22 choices to the fullest extent possible and to offer high quality options as families select  
23 publicly funded early childhood care and education; and

24 WHEREAS, HCR No. 61 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature requested  
25 BESE to develop a statewide model for the funding of and equitable distribution of public  
26 funds for quality early childhood care and education for Louisiana children, ages birth to  
27 five, whose families request such services, and to submit a written report relative to such  
28 model to the legislature prior to the 2015 Regular Session; in response to this Resolution,  
29 BESE developed a funding model that was presented to the legislature in a report to the  
30 House and Senate education committees (the report); and

1           WHEREAS, the report defined three major challenges in the implementation of Act  
2 3, including upgrading quality as child care funding is too low to ensure adequate teaching,  
3 creating equity as the state investment in Pre-K is less than the state investment in  
4 kindergarten, and increasing access as there are not enough Pre-K seats for all at-risk  
5 families who want one; and

6           WHEREAS, the report estimated the cost of addressing these challenges to be eighty  
7 million dollars; however, the report did not define specific funding mechanisms nor how this  
8 funding might be phased in; and

9           WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address the early childhood care and  
10 education funding gaps in the state, as the full implementation of Act 3 is mandated to begin  
11 in the 2015-2016 school year, and only fifty-four percent of children in Louisiana who are  
12 entering kindergarten are considered ready for kindergarten.

13           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
14 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation  
15 with stakeholders, which include but are not limited to the Advisory Council on Early Care  
16 and Education, to identify funding sources of state and federal funds available in Louisiana  
17 to be used for early childhood care and education, as well as additional potential funding  
18 sources used by other states for such purpose, and submit a written report to the House  
19 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report, which BESE shall submit to these  
21 committees by January 15, 2016, shall include a proposal of specific funding mechanisms  
22 and a corresponding strategy for implementation of the eighty million dollar funding model  
23 developed in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 of the 2014 Regular Session  
24 of the Legislature.

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

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**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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HCR 174 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

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Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in consultation with stakeholders, identify sources of state and federal funds available in La. for early childhood care and education, as well as additional potential funding sources used by other states for this purpose, and submit a written report to the House and Senate Education committees by Jan. 15, 2016, which includes a proposal of specific funding mechanisms and a corresponding strategy for implementation of the funding model developed in response HCR No. 61 of the 2014 R.S.