

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

CURRICULA: Requests a study relative to allowing Anatomy and Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, Biology II for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award qualification and high school graduation

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
3 Education to study collaboratively the feasibility and advisability of allowing
4 Anatomy and Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for,
5 Biology II for purposes of satisfying requirements relative to qualification for Taylor
6 Opportunity Program for Students awards and high school graduation and submit
7 jointly a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations
8 for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate
9 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020
10 Regular Session of the Legislature.

11 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that it is the goal of the state's
12 public educational system to afford every individual an equal opportunity to develop to his
13 full potential; and

14 WHEREAS, Anatomy and Physiology is a dynamic and challenging high school
15 course that provides an excellent foundation for students interested in pursuing further
16 studies and careers in scientific fields; and

17 WHEREAS, while Anatomy and Physiology has some similarities with Biology II,
18 they are distinct courses that do not completely overlap in terms of subject matter; some
19 students who are particularly interested in the topics covered in these courses would like the
20 option of taking both and having them both count for credit toward satisfying requirements

1 for high school graduation and Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award
2 qualification, but that is not currently an option; and

3 WHEREAS, in requirements for high school graduation, Biology II and Anatomy
4 and Physiology are grouped together in the same subset of science options, only one of
5 which can be taken for credit toward graduation; similarly, TOPS rules provide that
6 Anatomy and Physiology is an acceptable equivalent course for Biology II, which means that
7 if they are both taken, they cannot both "count" for purposes of TOPS; and

8 WHEREAS, graduation requirements are set in BESE policy, except for graduation
9 requirements for a career diploma, which are set in state law; TOPS core curricula
10 requirements are also provided in state law; thus, amendments of such laws should be
11 considered; and

12 WHEREAS, there has been a move in recent years to align high school graduation
13 requirements with TOPS core curricula requirements; thus, any revisions of these
14 requirements should be made in concert; and

15 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
16 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that the
17 feasibility and advisability of including Anatomy and Physiology as an option in addition
18 to, rather than a substitute for, Biology II receive a thorough evaluation.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
21 Education to study collaboratively the feasibility and advisability of allowing Anatomy and
22 Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, Biology II for purposes of
23 satisfying requirements relative to qualification for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
24 awards and high school graduation and submit jointly a written report of findings,
25 conclusions, and recommendations, including any recommendations for related legislation,
26 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than
27 sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
29 to the chairman of the Board of Regents and the president of the State Board of Elementary
30 and Secondary Education.

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)]

HCR 9 Original

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Hoffmann

Requests that the Bd. of Regents and State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study collaboratively the feasibility and advisability of allowing Anatomy and Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, Biology II to satisfy requirements relative to qualification for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students awards and high school graduation and submit jointly to the House and Senate education committees a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, at least 60 days before the 2020 R.S.