

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5039

By Committee on Education

3-20

9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION concerning teacher preparation
10 programs and teacher licensure; urging the State Board of Education,
11 the State Board of Regents and institutions of higher education to
12 collaborate in the review of current alternative teacher preparation
13 programs to determine if any changes should be made to such pro-
14 grams in order to alleviate the shortage of teachers which exists in the
15 state.

16
17 WHEREAS, There was a shortage of 477 teachers in Kansas school
18 districts at the beginning of school year 2007-2008; and

19 WHEREAS, The shortage of teachers in all teaching disciplines in the
20 rural areas of the state and the shortage of teachers in the teaching dis-
21 ciplines of mathematics, science and special education on a state-wide
22 basis is at a critical level; and

23 WHEREAS, The shortage of teachers is expected to grow worse as
24 more teachers become eligible for retirement and the number of persons
25 entering the field of education does not keep pace with the numbers of
26 teachers who retire or leave the field of education each year; and

27 WHEREAS, A large number of graduates of Kansas teacher prepa-
28 ration programs leave the state for higher paying teaching positions in
29 states other than Kansas or take higher paying positions in fields outside
30 the field of education; and

31 WHEREAS, Many people who are making mid-career changes or who
32 are retiring may consider teaching as a second career or a post-retirement
33 position, but the cost and time involved in the completion of the tradi-
34 tional teacher preparation program which is necessary for teacher licen-
35 sure can be prohibitive and discourages such people from choosing teach-
36 ing as a second career; and

37 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education and several institutions of
38 higher education have made significant efforts to increase the availability
39 of alternative teacher preparation and licensure programs, such programs
40 are not readily accessible to many persons desiring to enter such pro-
41 grams; and

42 WHEREAS, One of the greatest factors affecting a student's success
43 in the classroom is teacher preparation; and

1 WHEREAS, Institutions of higher education currently are in the best
2 position to develop alternative teacher preparation programs: Now,
3 therefore,
4 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
5 *the Senate concurring therein:* That the State Board of Regents is di-
6 rected to encourage institutions of higher education to develop alternative
7 methods for providing teacher preparation which are more flexible than
8 current methods including, but not limited to, internet-based programs,
9 off-campus programs and weekend programs and to make suggestions
10 which would reduce the cost of alternative teacher preparation programs;
11 and
12 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Regents is directed to
13 encourage institutions of higher education to develop alternative teacher
14 preparation programs specifically directed to meet the needs of students
15 and teachers in urban schools; and
16 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Regents is directed to
17 encourage institutions of higher education to develop an alternative
18 teacher preparation program that addresses the individual professional or
19 pedagogical needs of a teacher candidate and under which a person could
20 become licensed on an accelerated-basis; and
21 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Regents is directed to
22 investigate the use of master teachers in school districts or personnel at
23 service centers to provide teacher preparation programs in the school
24 districts; and
25 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Regents, in collabo-
26 ration with the State Board of Education, shall examine policies which
27 establish geographic service areas for institutions of higher education and
28 take steps to modify such policies that prevent the provision of alternative
29 teacher preparation programs outside the geographic service area of an
30 institution providing any such program; and
31 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Regents, in coopera-
32 tion with the State Board of Education, should review and advertise schol-
33 arship programs available to students in teacher preparation programs in
34 the hard-to-fill teaching disciplines of mathematics, science and special
35 education; and
36 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Regents and institu-
37 tions of higher education which offer teacher preparation programs, in
38 collaboration with the State Board of Education and local school districts,
39 are directed to review current teacher preparation programs to determine
40 if any changes should be made to such programs in order to alleviate the
41 teacher shortage which exists in the state; and
42 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Education is encour-
43 aged to continue to identify and adopt measures to provide highly qual-

1 ified teachers for Kansas classrooms through the use of alternative teacher
2 licensure programs; and
3 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Education is directed
4 to identify financial incentives to attract persons to the field of education;
5 and
6 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Education, in collab-
7 oration with the State Board of Regents and institutions of higher edu-
8 cation which offer teacher preparation programs, should promote the
9 profession of teaching in Kansas and should actively recruit persons to
10 enter into the teaching profession especially in the hard-to-fill teaching
11 disciplines of mathematics, science and special education and in the un-
12 der-served geographic areas of the state; and
13 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Education should re-
14 view the recruitment and retention initiatives of the Teaching Commis-
15 sion in Kansas and develop an action plan and a time line for the devel-
16 opment of specific strategies to implement the initiatives; and
17 *Be it further resolved:* That the state Board of Education is directed
18 to monitor and evaluate the implementation of rules and regulations
19 adopted by the State Board in August of 2007 as well as rules and regu-
20 lations which will be adopted in 2008 which remove barriers to the licen-
21 sure of persons as teachers and to determine if further regulatory changes
22 are needed to enhance access to licensure of persons as teachers; and
23 *Be it further resolved:* That the State Board of Education and the
24 State Board of Regents shall submit a report of the activities of such
25 boards and institutions of higher education which offer teacher prepa-
26 ration programs in relation to this resolution and shall submit such report
27 to the legislature on or before December 31, 2008; and
28 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Repre-
29 sentatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Chairperson
30 of the State Board of Education and the Chairperson of the State Board
31 of Regents; and
32 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chairperson of the State Board of
33 Regents shall transmit copies of the resolutions to the deans of education
34 at all public and private institutions of higher education which provide
35 teacher education programs.