SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PILOT A NEW PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

WHEREAS, suspensions not only fail to address the root causes of disruptive behavior, but also are related to future undesirable outcomes such as dropping out of school and becoming enmeshed in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, suspensions should never be used as punishment and should only be used as last resort, in cases of imminent physical danger, for valid pedogeological purposes, and for the time strictly necessary to serve such valid purpose; and

WHEREAS, the definition of suspensions includes out-of-school, in-school, and ad hoc (part-day) suspensions; and

WHEREAS, suspensions of all types have a profoundly negative impact on students, denying them valuable education time, increasing drop-out rates, and fueling the school-to-prison pipeline; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that the negative effects of exclusionary discipline are more pronounced for males, students of color, and students with disabilities – groups that have historically experienced higher rates of suspension and expulsion; and

WHEREAS, disparities in the number and length of suspensions across race and disability create increased obstacles to obtaining a quality education; and

WHEREAS, students of ethnic or racial minorities do not commit more disciplinable offenses than their peers, but in aggregate they receive substantially more school discipline, with longer and harsher sanctions; and
address the need for the extension and review the progress on
the written plan for providing out-of-school educational
services to the students and how to best integrate the student
back into the classroom as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any additional extensions
follow this three- and five-day extension meeting procedure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
requested to publish a report of each complex area's efforts,
including:

(1) Information on how many suspensions, including what
type, length, and number of extensions disaggregated
by student demographic data and by school, were given
in that school year;

(2) Any memoranda or standard practice documents issued to
Department of Education employees; and

(3) What alternatives to suspension were used; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than
twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Concurrent Resolution to be transmitted to the Chairperson of
the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Complex
Area Superintendent, or Superintendents of the school complexes
chosen for the pilot.

OFFERED BY: