

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 946

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

EDUCATION/SPECIAL: Provides relative to the membership and reports of special education advisory councils

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C), relative to local special education
3 advisory councils; to provide relative to membership on such councils; to provide
4 relative to reports from such councils; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

8 §1944.1. Local special education advisory councils; creation; purpose

9 * * *

10 B.(1) The number of council members and composition of the council shall
11 be determined by the local public school superintendent or the administrative head
12 of each charter school or other public school. However, if the schools under the
13 authority of the superintendent or administrative head enroll more than one thousand
14 students, the council shall be comprised of not fewer than nine members. Regardless
15 of the number of members, the council's membership shall be composed as follows:

16 (a) ~~Fifty~~ Except as otherwise provided by this Subparagraph, at least fifty
17 percent of the membership shall be parents or legal guardians of students with an

1 exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, who are enrolled in a school under the
2 jurisdiction of the public school governing authority, none of whom shall be
3 employees of the public school governing authority. One high school student with
4 an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, and one person who represents an
5 entity that serves students with disabilities or families of students with disabilities
6 and who is not an employee of the school governing authority may be counted to
7 meet the requirement of this Subparagraph.

8 (b) ~~Twenty-five percent of the membership shall be teachers, principals, or~~
9 ~~paraprofessionals.~~

10 (c) ~~Twenty-five~~ At least ten percent of the membership shall be other special
11 education stakeholders other than those provided for by Subparagraphs (a) and (c)
12 of this Paragraph.

13 (c) A teacher, principal, or paraprofessional shall be appointed to any
14 position on a council that is not filled by a person specified in Subparagraph (a) or
15 (b) of this Paragraph.

16 * * *

17 C. Each special education advisory council shall meet at least three times a
18 year and shall submit a written report to the local public school superintendent or the
19 administrative head of the charter school or other public school and the Louisiana
20 Special Education Advisory Panel in May of each year regarding its activities. The
21 local public school superintendent or the administrative head of the charter school
22 or other public school shall ensure that the report is posted on the district's or the
23 school's website, and all such reports shall be submitted to the state Department of
24 Education and published on its website.

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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)]

HB 946 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Abstract: Provides relative to membership on and reports produced by local special education advisory councils, which advise public schools regarding special education.

Present law requires each local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school or other public school to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. Provides that such a council shall also engage in outreach activities to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

Present law provides that the number of council members is determined by the authority creating the council. Proposed law retains present law except to provide that if the schools under the authority of the superintendent of administrative head have an enrollment of more than 1,000 students, the minimum number of council members is nine.

Proposed law modifies requirements regarding groups represented on the council as follows:

- (1) Parents or legal guardians of current students with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented:

Present law requires that 50% of council membership be members of this group. Proposed law requires that *at least* 50% of council membership be members of this group, except that this group may include one high school student with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, and one person who represents an entity that serves students with disabilities or their families. Also prohibits inclusion of school employees in this membership group.

- (2) Special education stakeholders other than parents and teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals:

Present law requires that 25% of council membership be members of this group. Proposed law requires that *at least* 10% of council membership be members of this group.

- (3) Teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals:

Present law requires that 25% of council membership be members of this group. Proposed law requires the balance of the council membership be appointed from this group.

Present law requires that each local special education advisory council report annually to the superintendent or administrative head.

Proposed law requires each council to also report to the La. Special Education Advisory Panel. Requires that the superintendent or administrative head ensure that the report is posted on the district's or the school's website. Further requires publication of all such reports on the state Dept. of Education's website.

(Amends R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Change proposed law regarding minimum number of council members from 13 to nine and limit applicability of this provision to schools or school systems with more than 1,000 students.
2. Authorize inclusion of one high school student with an exceptionality and one person who represents an entity that serves students with disabilities or their families in the parents groups of council members.