ENGLISH

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 369

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS

EDUCATION: Requires public school governing authorities and public schools to post on their websites laws pertaining to parental access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill of Rights

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:354 and 3996(B)(67) and (68), relative to education; to require public school governing authorities and public schools to post information on their websites relative to laws granting parents access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools; to require distribution of such information during the first week of school annually; to apply the law relative to parental access to instructional materials to charter schools; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:354 and 3996(B)(67) and (68) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§354. Parental access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools; posting and distribution of laws and information

A. Each public school governing authority and each public school shall post on its website information explaining the rights that parents have relative to accessing the instructional materials used in the education of their child and other rights pertaining to their child's education. The information shall be posted prominently in a location that is readily accessible from the main landing page of the website and shall include an easily understandable summary and the full text and legal citation of both of the following provisions:

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
B. The information also shall be distributed to parents during the first week of school annually via paperwork sent home or any electronic means through which communication is routinely delivered to parents.

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

(67) Parental access to instructional materials, R.S. 17:355.

(68) Posting and distribution of information relative to parental rights, R.S. 17:354.

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 369 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Harris

Abstract: Requires public school governing authorities and schools to share information relative to the laws providing for parents' rights with respect to their children's education.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
Proposed law requires public school governing authorities and schools to post an easily understandable summary and the full text and legal citation of the following provisions of present law relative to parental access to instructional materials and other parental rights relative to their children's education:

1. Present law (R.S. 17:355), which provides that the parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school is entitled to access instructional materials

2. Present law (R.S. 17:406.9), which, in the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools, provides that parents of public school children who have not reached the age of majority shall have certain rights, including those relative to examining textbooks, curricula, and supplemental materials.

Proposed law also requires that the information be distributed to parents during the first week of school annually via paperwork sent home or any electronic means through which communication is routinely delivered to parents.

Present law applies present law (R.S. 17:406.9) relative to the Parents' Bill of Rights to charter schools. Proposed law additionally applies present law (R.S. 17:355) relative to parental access to instructional materials to charter schools. Proposed law relative to distributing and posting information about such present law on websites is applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:354 and 3996(B)(67) and (68))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Additionally require the information to be distributed to parents during the first week of school annually.