

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 946

2022 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

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

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Regarding representation of teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals on the special education advisory councils:

Present law requires that 25% of the council be comprised of such members.

Proposed law without the amendment provides that the balance of the council, if any positions are unfilled after appointment of members of other required groups, be comprised of such members.

Proposed law as amended requires inclusion of at least one teacher, principal, or paraprofessional. Further requires that such a person be one who serves students with disabilities and who is employed in a school under the jurisdiction of the governing authority.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 but provides that if the council has fewer than eight members, the authority creating the council shall explain this decision to the council, which shall include the explanation in its report as required by proposed law.

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 parents of children receiving special education services from the public school governing authority, 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 that at least one member of the council membership be appointed from this group and requires that such a person be one who serves students with disabilities and who is employed in a school under the jurisdiction of the governing authority.

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 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); Adds R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(3)(c))