2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 25

BY SENATOR EDMONDS AND REPRESENTATIVE CHENEVERT

SCHOOLS. Constitutional amendment to grant the St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish the same authority granted to parishes to operate a school system. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

1	A JOINT RESOLUTION
2	Proposing to amend Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative
3	to certain effects and purposes for the proposed St. George community school system
4	in East Baton Rouge Parish which shall be regarded and treated as a parish and shall
5	have the authority granted parishes with respect to operating a school system,
6	including the purposes of certain funding and the raising of certain local revenues for
7	the support of elementary and secondary schools; to provide for submission of the
8	proposed amendment to the electors; to specify an election date for submission of the
9	proposition to electors and to provide for a ballot proposition.
10	Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members
11	elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for
12	their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VIII,
13	Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:
14	§13. Funding; Apportionment
15	Section 13. * * *
16	(D)(1) Municipal and Other School Systems. For the effects and purposes of
17	this Section, the Central community school system**, the St. George community**

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law;
words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

1   **school system,** and the Zachary community school system in East Baton Rouge

2   Parish, and the municipalities of Baker in East Baton Rouge Parish, Monroe in

3   Ouachita Parish, and Bogalusa in Washington Parish, and no others, shall be

4   regarded and treated as parishes and shall have the authority granted parishes.

5   Consistent with Article VIII of this constitution, relevant to equal educational

6   opportunities, no state dollars shall be used to discriminate or to have the effect of

7   discriminating in providing equal educational opportunity for all students.

8   *   *   *

9   Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to

10   the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on April 18, 2026.

11   Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election

12   there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted

13   to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as

14   follows:

15   Do you support an amendment to grant the St. George community school

16   system in East Baton Rouge Parish the same authority granted parishes for

17   purposes of Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana,

18   including purposes related to the minimum foundation program, funding for

19   certain school books and instructional materials, and the raising of certain

20   local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools?

21   (Amends Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1))

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST
SB 25 Engrossed   2025 Regular Session   Edmonds

Present constitution (Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1)) states that the Central and Zachary
community school systems in East Baton Rouge Parish, the municipalities of Baker in East
Baton Rouge Parish, Monroe in Ouachita Parish, and Bogalusa in Washington Parish, and
no others, shall be regarded and treated as parishes and shall have the authority granted
parishes with respect to operating a school system. Further provides that no state dollars
shall be used to discriminate or to have the effect of discriminating in providing educational
opportunity for all students.

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law;
words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution and additionally provides that the St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish shall also be regarded and treated as a parish and shall have the authority granted parishes to operate a school system.

Present constitution, (Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1)) all of the following:

(1)   Requires the legislature to appropriate funds to supply free school books and other materials of instruction prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to the children of this state at the elementary and secondary levels.

(2)   Requires BESE to annually develop and adopt a formula which shall be used to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program (MFP) of education in all public elementary and secondary schools as well as to equitably allocate the funds to parish and city school systems. Specifies that the MFP formula shall provide for a contribution by every city and parish school system.

(3)   Establishes the process for consideration and approval of the MFP formula by the legislature.

(4)   Requires annual appropriations to fully fund a legislatively approved MFP formula and permits the governor, in accordance with legislatively specified procedures and with legislative approval, to reduce such appropriations.

(5)   Requires that appropriated funds be equitably allocated to parish and city school systems according to the MFP formula as adopted by BESE and approved by the legislature prior to making the appropriation.

(6)   Requires the use of the last legislatively approved MFP formula whenever the legislature fails to approve the formula most recently adopted by BESE.

(7)   Provides that local funds for the support of elementary and secondary schools shall be derived from the following sources:

        (a)   Requires each parish school board (except in Orleans Parish) and each municipality or city school board actually operating, maintaining, or supporting a separate system of public schools to levy annually an ad valorem maintenance tax not to exceed five mills on the dollar of assessed valuation on property subject to such taxation within the parish or city, respectively.

        (b)   Requires the Orleans Parish School Board to levy annually a tax not to exceed 13 mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of property within the city of New Orleans assessed for city taxation and to certify the amount of the tax to the city's governing authority. Requires the governing authority to have the tax entered on city tax rolls and requires that the tax be collected in the manner, under the conditions, and with the interest and penalties prescribed by law for city taxes. Specifies that the money thus collected shall be paid daily to the Orleans Parish School Board.

        (c)   Permits any parish, school district, or subschool district, or any municipality or city school board which supports a separate city system of public schools to levy an additional ad valorem tax for a specific purpose of school funding, when authorized by a majority of the electors voting in the parish, municipality, district, or subdistrict in an election held for that purpose. Requires that the amount, duration, and purpose of the additional ad valorem tax to be in accord with any limitation imposed by the legislature.

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law;
words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

Proposed constitution retains present constitution.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on April 18, 2026.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 13(D)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

      Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

      1.   Changes the date for the submission of the amendment to the voters.

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law;
words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.