2025 Regular Session

#### SENATE BILL NO. 234

# BY SENATOR EDMONDS AND REPRESENTATIVES CARLSON, CHENEVERT, EDMONSTON AND OWEN

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 17:58.2(J) and 68.1 through 68.7, and to repeal R.S. 17:58.2(I) and 67 through
3	67.4, relative to school systems in East Baton Rouge Parish; to provide for the St.
4	George Community School System; to provide for the establishment and geographic
5	boundaries of the school system; to provide for the school board, an interim school
6	board, and an interim school superintendent; to provide for board membership,
7	apportionment, qualifications, method of selection, terms of office, filling of
8	vacancies, compensation, expenses, powers, duties, and responsibilities; to provide
9	relative to facilities and property; to provide relative to the collection and remittance
10	of certain taxes; to provide relative to the provision of certain student services; to
11	provide relative to certain applications for funding; to provide for the
12	reapportionment of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board; to provide with
13	respect to certain costs related to retired employees; to provide for agreements
14	between school boards with respect to an allocation of assets and liabilities; to
15	provide for effectiveness and for implementation; to repeal provisions of law with
16	respect to the Southeast Baton Rouge Community School District which did not take
17	effect due to the failure to enact an authorizing constitutional amendment; to provide
18	for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.
19	Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.
20	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
21	Section 1. R.S. 17:58.2(J) and 68.1 through 68.7 are hereby enacted to read as
22	follows:
23	§58.2. East Baton Rouge Parish School Board; reapportionment; election districts;

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1	terms
2	* * *
3	J.(1) In addition to any other requirements in this Section, in the event
4	the St. George Community School Board begins the actual operation of
5	educating students within its jurisdiction as a separate school system in
6	accordance with R.S. 17:68.1, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall
7	develop a plan to divide the parish, excluding the geographic area within the
8	boundaries of the St. George Community School System, into single-member
9	districts from each of which one member of the board shall be elected. The
10	districts shall be drawn with as equal population as possible, using population
11	figures from the most recent federal decennial census.
12	(2) Prior to the final adoption of the reapportionment plan, the East
13	<b>Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall order a public hearing on the proposed</b>
14	plan and shall cause the notice of the public hearing to be published in its
15	official journal, at least twenty days prior to the date of the hearing, and the
16	notice shall include all of the following:
17	(a) The time and place of the hearing.
18	(b) A general summary and map of the proposed reapportionment plan.
19	(c) The times and places where copies of the proposed map and
20	reapportionment plan are available for public inspection.
21	(3) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, each elected member
22	of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board who is holding office on the date
23	that the St. George Community School Board begins the actual operation of
24	educating students within its jurisdiction as a separate school system shall serve
25	the remainder of the term of office for which the member was elected. If a
26	vacancy occurs during the member's term of office, it shall be filled in
27	accordance with law from districts in effect at the time the office is filled.
28	(4) At the next date on which a regular election for members of the East
29	<b>Baton Rouge Parish School Board would be held following the date that the St.</b>

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1	students within its jurisdiction as a separate school system, the members of the
2	East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall be elected from single-member
3	districts adopted in accordance with this Subsection. The members so elected
4	and their successors in office shall serve four-year concurrent terms.
5	Thereafter, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall be reapportioned
6	as otherwise provided by law.
7	* * *
8	§68.1. St. George Community School Board and school system; creation;
9	membership; qualifications; apportionment; election; powers,
10	duties, functions; and system operation
11	A.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, upon the
12	appointment of members of the interim school board as provided in R.S.
13	17:68.2, there shall be established a separate school system and school board for
14	the city of St. George within the boundaries of East Baton Rouge Parish. The
15	school board shall be designated as the St. George Community School Board.
16	The board shall be composed of seven members, one from each of the single-
16 17	<u>The board shall be composed of seven members, one from each of the single-</u> <u>member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be</u>
17	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be
17 18	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52.
17 18 19	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52. (2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times
17 18 19 20	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52. (2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George.
17 18 19 20 21	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52. (2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George. B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days of
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> </ol>	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52. (2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George. B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days of appointment of the interim members, develop and adopt a plan of governance
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52.</li> <li>(2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George.</li> <li>B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days of appointment of the interim members, develop and adopt a plan of governance and shall divide the geographic area encompassed by the St. George</li> </ul>
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ol>	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall beelectors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52.(2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all timesrelevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George.B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days ofappointment of the interim members, develop and adopt a plan of governanceand shall divide the geographic area encompassed by the St. GeorgeCommunity School System into seven single-member districts and each district
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52.</li> <li>(2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George.</li> <li>B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days of appointment of the interim members, develop and adopt a plan of governance and shall divide the geographic area encompassed by the St. George Community School System into seven single-member districts and each district shall elect one member to serve on the St. George Community School Board.</li> </ul>
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ol>	member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52. (2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George. B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days of appointment of the interim members, develop and adopt a plan of governance and shall divide the geographic area encompassed by the St. George Community School System into seven single-member districts and each district shall elect one member to serve on the St. George Community School Board. The districts shall be drawn in such a manner so that each member of the St.
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>member districts as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, who shall be electors and shall meet the qualifications for office provided in R.S. 17:52.</li> <li>(2) The geographic boundaries of the school system shall, at all times relevant, be coterminous with the city of St. George.</li> <li>B.(1) The interim school board shall, within one hundred eighty days of appointment of the interim members, develop and adopt a plan of governance and shall divide the geographic area encompassed by the St. George Community School System into seven single-member districts and each district shall elect one member to serve on the St. George Community School Board. The districts shall be drawn in such a manner so that each member of the St. George Community School Board represents the same number of persons as</li> </ul>

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## **ENROLLED**

1	Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the interim school board shall order a public
2	<u>hearing on the proposed plan and shall cause the notice of the public hearing to</u>
3	be published in its official journal, at least twenty days prior to the date of such
4	hearing, and the notice shall include all of the following:
5	(a) The time and place of the hearing.
6	(b) A general summary and map of the proposed apportionment plan.
7	(c) The times and places where copies of the proposed map and
8	apportionment plan are available for public inspection.
9	C.(1) The initial members of the St. George Community School Board
10	shall be elected at the time and place as provided by law and the election shall
11	occur prior to the date that the St. George Community School Board begins the
12	actual operation of educating students within its jurisdiction as a separate
13	school system.
14	(2) The initial elected members shall take office and their duties shall be
15	generally provided by law for elected parish school board members.
16	<b>D. Vacancies on the board shall be filled as generally provided by law for</b>
17	parish school boards.
18	<b>E.(1)</b> The organization of the St. George Community School Board as
19	well as the board's powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities shall be as
20	provided by law for local public school boards. Compensation for board
21	members and reimbursement for expenses shall be as provided by law for city,
22	parish, and other local public school board members.
23	(2) The St. George Community School Board shall adopt rules,
24	regulations, and procedures consistent with law to effectuate this Section and
25	to administer the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the board.
26	F.(1) The St. George Community School Board shall begin actual
27	operation of providing for the education of students within its jurisdiction on
28	<u>July 1, 2027.</u>
29	(2) Pursuant to the duty and responsibility placed with the legislature by
30	Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Louisiana to establish and

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## **ENROLLED**

1	maintain a public educational system and pursuant to the authority granted to
2	the legislature by Article VIII, Section 10(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana
3	to enact laws affecting parish school board systems in existence on the effective
4	date of the constitution, all lands, buildings, improvements, facilities, and other
5	property having title vested in the public and subject to management,
6	administration, and control by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board for
7	public education purposes that is located within the geographic boundaries of
8	the St. George Community School System or used to provide student
9	transportation services to such facilities, or both, shall be transferred to the St.
10	George Community School Board not later than June 30, 2027. Once
11	transferred, all property shall thereafter be managed, administered, and
12	<u>controlled by the St. George Community School Board. The provisions of this</u>
13	Subsection shall supercede any other provision of law to the contrary.
14	<b>G. The St. George Community School System and the East Baton Rouge</b>
15	Parish School System shall develop a transportation plan or develop a plan for
16	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton
16	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton
16 17	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System.
16 17 18	<u>transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton</u> <u>Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System.</u> <u>H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended</u>
16 17 18 19	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school
16 17 18 19 20	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. <u>H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended</u> school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George
16 17 18 19 20 21	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. <u>H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended</u> school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June 30, 2027.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June 30, 2027. I. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and any taxing district
<ol> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ol>	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June 30, 2027. I. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and any taxing district created by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall be the recipient of
<ol> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June 30, 2027. I. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and any taxing district created by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall be the recipient of all sales and use taxes levied for school purposes collected within the geographic
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June 30, 2027. I. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and any taxing district created by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall be the recipient of all sales and use taxes levied for school purposes collected within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System and remitted by the tax
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	transferring school buses from the fleet owned and operated by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to the St. George Community School System. H. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide extended school year services through August 31, 2027, to public and nonpublic school students residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System who qualified to receive such services prior to June 30, 2027. I. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and any taxing district created by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall be the recipient of all sales and use taxes levied for school purposes collected within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System and remitted by the tax collector through June 30, 2027. Beginning on July 1, 2027, the sales and use taxe

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	J. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall receive all ad
2	valorem and property taxes levied for school purposes that are collected within
3	the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System and
4	that are remitted by the tax collector through June 30, 2027. Beginning on July
5	1, 2027, the tax collector shall remit all ad valorem and property taxes levied for
6	school purposes collected within the geographic boundaries of the St. George
7	Community School System, including delinquent payments, to the St. George
8	Community School System.
9	K. With respect to students attending charter schools that are located
10	within the boundaries of the St. George Community School System and the East
11	<b>Baton Rouge Parish School System, all of the following shall apply:</b>
12	(1)(a) On July 1, 2027, the St. George Community School Board shall
13	assume the jurisdiction over the existing charter schools located within the
14	boundaries of the St. George Community School System that were authorized
15	by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System prior to the effective date of the
16	<u>Act</u> .
17	
1,	(b) An existing charter operator, at their option, may renegotiate the
18	(b) An existing charter operator, at their option, may renegotiate the terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to
18	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to
18 19	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type
18 19 20	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not
18 19 20 21	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter
18 19 20 21 22	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter which were authorized by the East Baton Rouge School System prior to the
<ol> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> </ol>	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter which were authorized by the East Baton Rouge School System prior to the effective date of the Act shall remain in effect until the expiration of the charter.
<ol> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ol>	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter which were authorized by the East Baton Rouge School System prior to the effective date of the Act shall remain in effect until the expiration of the charter. (2) After the effective date of the Act, all applications for a new charter
<ol> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter which were authorized by the East Baton Rouge School System prior to the effective date of the Act shall remain in effect until the expiration of the charter. (2) After the effective date of the Act, all applications for a new charter school to be located within the boundaries of the St. George Community School
<ol> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ol>	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter which were authorized by the East Baton Rouge School System prior to the effective date of the Act shall remain in effect until the expiration of the charter. (2) After the effective date of the Act, all applications for a new charter school to be located within the boundaries of the St. George Community School System shall be made to the St. George Community School Board or as
<ol> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> </ol>	terms of the contract with St. George Community School System or petition to the Louisiana Board of Secondary and Elementary Education to become a Type II charter after the effective date of the Act. If the existing charter chooses not to renegotiate the terms of the existing charter, then the terms of the charter which were authorized by the East Baton Rouge School System prior to the effective date of the Act shall remain in effect until the expiration of the charter. (2) After the effective date of the Act, all applications for a new charter school to be located within the boundaries of the St. George Community School System shall be made to the St. George Community School Board or as otherwise provided by law.

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1	equal educational opportunity for all students.
2	M. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and the St. George
3	Community School System shall enter into an agreement with respect to the
4	transfer of students between the school system that does all of the following:
5	(1) Allows any student who is domiciled in the city of St. George to enroll
6	and attend a school in the adjoining school system of East Baton Rouge Parish,
7	pursuant to R.S. 17:105.1.
8	(2) Provides that any student who resides within the boundaries of the
9	St. George Community School System or the East Baton Rouge Parish School
10	System may enroll in any charter school located within the geographical
11	boundaries of East Baton Rouge Parish.
12	(3) Provides that any student who is living within the geographic
13	boundaries of the St. George Community School System shall be allowed to
14	attend any magnet program at a school with selective enrollment that is located
15	within the boundaries of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, without
16	regard to attendance zones, so long as the student meets the selective
17	admission's requirements and maintains the academic standards of the magnet
18	program.
19	(4) Provides that any student who is living within the geographic
20	boundaries of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall be allowed to
21	attend any magnet program at a school with selective enrollment that is located
22	within the boundaries of the St. George Community School System, without
23	regard to attendance zones, so long as the student meets the selective
24	admission's requirements and maintains the academic standards of the magnet
25	program.
26	(5) Provides that any new applicant to a magnet program or a charter
27	school shall not displace any student who is already on the waiting list to attend
28	that magnet program or charter school, regardless of where the student resides
29	<u>in East Baton Rouge Parish.</u>
30	(6) Provides that the school which accepts a student that is transferred

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1	in compliance with the agreement shall receive the local per pupil and state
2	Minimum Foundation Program funds, pursuant to R.S. 17:105, so that the
3	money follows that student to the chosen school.
4	<b>N.(1) Except as provided in Subsection M of this Section, nothing in this</b>
5	Section shall be construed to interfere or circumvent the rights of either school
6	system that are established by law as it relates to attendance zones.
7	(2) Nothing in Subsection M of this Section shall prohibit the East Baton
8	<b>Rouge Parish School System or the St. George Community School System from</b>
9	creating enrollment preferences that may prioritize qualified students who
10	reside within the district boundaries of its school system.
11	<u>§68.2. St. George Community School System; interim school board; interim</u>
12	<u>school superintendent</u>
13	A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, upon the
14	appointment of the members thereof as provided in Subsection C of this Section,
15	an interim school board shall be created for the St. George Community School
16	System and the board shall continue its service until the taking of office of the
17	initial elected members of the St. George Community School Board as provided
18	<u>in R.S. 17:68.1.</u>
19	<b>B.(1)</b> The interim school board shall be composed of seven members
20	appointed at large as provided in Subsection C of this Section. An interim
21	school board member shall have attained the age of eighteen, have resided in the
22	state for the two years preceding appointment, have been domiciled within the
23	geographic boundaries of the school system for at least one year preceding
24	appointment, meet the qualifications provided in R.S. 17:52, be an elector and
25	reside within the geographic boundaries of the school system.
26	(2) Membership on the interim school board shall not disqualify an
27	otherwise eligible person from qualifying as a candidate for election as a
28	member of the St. George Community School Board.
29	<b>C.(1)</b> All seven members of the interim school board shall be appointed
30	by the governor within thirty days after the effective date of this Act and shall

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1	serve until the initial members of the St. George Community School Board are
2	elected, as provided in R.S. 17:68.1, and take office.
3	(2) Members appointed by the governor shall be from a list of nominees
4	provided as follows:
5	(a) The members of the Louisiana Senate elected from district numbers
6	six, fourteen, and sixteen shall each nominate three persons meeting the
7	qualifications for office for each position to be appointed by the governor.
8	(b) The members of the Louisiana House of Representatives elected from
9	district numbers sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-eight, sixty-nine, and seventy shall
10	each nominate two persons meeting the qualifications for office for each
11	position to be appointed by the governor.
12	(3) A vacancy on the interim school board shall be filled in the same
13	manner as the original appointment.
14	<b>D.(1)</b> The interim school board shall constitute a body corporate in law.
15	(2) The organization of the interim school board as well as the board's
16	powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities shall be as provided by law
17	generally for city, parish, and other local public school boards.
18	(3) Members of the interim school board shall serve without
19	compensation.
20	E. The interim school board shall adopt rules, regulations, and
21	procedures consistent with law to effectuate this Section and to administer the
22	duties, functions, and responsibilities of the interim board.
23	F. The provisions of R.S. 42:11 through 28, relative to open meetings,
24	and the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title 44 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
25	1950, relative to public records, shall be applicable to the interim school board
26	and its members.
27	G. All authority that is granted to the interim school board by this
28	Section shall expire upon the taking of office of the initial members of the St.
29	George Community School Board once the initial members are elected pursuant
20	to R.S. 17:68.1. However, the elected school board may take formal action to
30	

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1	continue the interim school board as an advisory body on matters previously
2	under the jurisdiction of the interim board.
3	H. The governor shall appoint an interim school superintendent who
4	shall serve until the elected school board chooses a new school superintendent
5	who shall meet the qualifications of R.S. 17:54.
6	I. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall:
7	(1) Work cooperatively and collaboratively with the interim school board
8	and the St. George Community School Board to effect the transfer of the
9	students, buildings and other facilities, property, instructional materials, buses,
10	and all other assets related to the schools located within the geographic
11	boundaries of the St. George Community School System in an efficient and
12	expeditious manner.
13	(2) Provide the interim school board for the St. George Community
14	School System with immediate and complete access to:
15	(a) All school buildings and facilities associated with the schools located
16	within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System.
17	Such access shall include making the school buildings and facilities to be
18	transferred available, free of charge, to the interim school board or the elected
19	school board for the St. George Community School System for purposes of
20	conducting board and community meetings and other functions and activities
21	related to the operation of the St. George Community School System.
22	(b) All student records and any other student-related files associated
23	with students enrolled in the schools to be transferred to the St. George
24	Community School System.
25	(c) All financial records associated with the schools to be transferred to
26	the St. George Community School System, including those related to building
27	maintenance, taxes, insurance, and indebtedness.
28	J. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall not:
29	(1) Interfere, or impede in any way, with the processes to transfer the
30	students, buildings and other facilities, property, instructional materials and

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1	equipment, buses, and all other assets related to the schools located within the
2	geographical boundaries of the St. George Community School System to the St.
3	George Community School Board.
4	(2) Sell, transfer, or otherwise remove any asset or thing of value,
5	movable or immovable, corporeal or incorporeal, that is attributable to the
6	schools to be transferred to the St. George Community School System prior to
7	such transfer.
8	(3) Incur, transfer, or assign any debt or other responsibility or
9	obligation to schools to be transferred to the St. George Community School
10	System that is not properly attributable to such schools.
11	§68.3. Redistribution of Minimum Foundation Program to other school systems
12	<u>To ensure that the creation of the St. George Community School District</u>
13	does not have a negative impact on the minimum foundation program allocation
14	to school systems, beginning in the fiscal year of July 1, 2027, and continuing for
15	the next four fiscal years, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
16	Education shall identify the districts in parishes other than East Baton Rouge
17	on which the creation of the St. George Community School System causes a
18	negative impact and determine the amount of the negative impact on the
19	minimum foundation per pupil allocation. The State Board of Elementary and
20	Secondary Education shall withhold the total of the amounts of the negative
21	impact on all districts in parishes other than East Baton Rouge from the total
22	Minimum Foundation Program allocation to the St. George Community School
23	District and transfer those funds on a per pupil basis to such districts.
24	§68.4. Unfunded accrued liability; payment
25	In the event that the establishment or the operation of the St. George
26	Community School District results in the elimination of one or more positions
27	of current members of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System by
28	means of privatizing, outsourcing, or contracting the service with a private
29	employer, vendor, or by any other means, the St. George Community School
30	District shall remit that portion of the unfunded accrued liability attributable

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1	to that position or positions pursuant to R.S. 11:1195.2.
2	<u>§68.5. Benefits of reemployed retirees and Legacy Benefit Trust Fund for</u>
3	<b>Retirees of East Baton Rouge Parish School System</b>
4	A.(1) The East Baton Rouge Parish School System shall provide annually
5	to the St. George Community School System an itemization of all post
6	employment benefits to be paid by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board
7	for the benefit of every individual hired by the St. George Community School
8	System as a full-time employee.
9	(2) Utilizing the annual calculation method provided in Subsection B of
10	this Section, the St. George Community School System shall reimburse, via the
11	trust created in Subsection B of this Section, the East Baton Rouge Parish
12	School System on a quarterly basis for all post employment benefits for all
13	employees hired by the St. George Community School System as full-time
14	employees until all post-employment benefits to which the individuals are
15	entitled has been paid in full.
16	<b>B.(1)</b> A trust to be known as the "St. George Schools Legacy Benefit
17	Trust for Retirees of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System" shall be
18	established pursuant to R.S. 17:1224. Within twelve months of beginning
19	operation and then annually thereafter, the St. George Community School
20	System shall deposit into the trust an initial sum necessary to cover the amounts
21	that are required in this Section. The trust shall make quarterly payments to the
22	<b>East Baton Rouge Parish School System in order to satisfy the requirements of</b>
23	Subsection A of this Section.
24	(2) The annual sum to be deposited into the trust by the St. George
25	School System pursuant to Section shall be based upon the following:
26	(a) The amount which represents the total costs of providing the post
27	employment benefits for those individuals described in Subsection A of this
28	Section shall be divided by the number of students enrolled in the East Baton
29	Rouge Parish School System for the school year prior to July 1, 2027, thereby,
30	representing the per pupil amount of the total cost of the post employment

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1	benefits. The per pupil amount shall then be multiplied by the total number of
2	students enrolled in the St. George Community School for the school year after
3	July 1, 2027, representing the amount of the payment to the trust.
4	(b) For the school year beginning on July 1, 2028, and for all subsequent
5	years thereafter, the amount deposited shall be the per pupil costs utilizing the
6	initial student enrollment data for the respective two school districts and the per
7	pupil formula applicable to the amount owed to satisfy the obligation provided
8	for in Subsection A of this Section.
9	C. In the event it is determined by an actuarial study that the funds on
10	<u>deposit in the Legacy Benefit Trust for Retirees of the East Baton Rouge Parish</u>
11	School System are sufficient to pay the costs of the legacy benefits due to a
12	proportionate share of individuals who retired from the East Baton Rouge
13	Parish School System prior to the date in which the St. George Community
14	begins the actual operation of educating students, St. George Community
15	School System shall not be required to make any additional payments to the
16	Legacy Benefit Trust for Retirees of the East Baton Rouge Parish School
16 17	<u>Legacy Benefit Trust for Retirees of the East Baton Rouge Parish School</u> <u>System.</u>
17	System.
17 18	<u>System.</u> <u>§68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities</u>
17 18 19	<u>System.</u> <u>§68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities</u> <u>Improvement District</u>
17 18 19 20	<u>System.</u> <u>§68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities</u> <u>Improvement District</u> <u>A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational</u>
17 18 19 20 21	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> </ol>	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community         School Board a schedule of values for any construction completed within the
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> </ol>	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community         School Board a schedule of values for any construction completed within the         boundaries of the St. George Community School System with the proceeds of
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ol>	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community         School Board a schedule of values for any construction completed within the         boundaries of the St. George Community School System with the proceeds of         Qualified School Construction Bonds issued prior to the effective date of this
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community         School Board a schedule of values for any construction completed within the         boundaries of the St. George Community School System with the proceeds of         Qualified School Construction Bonds issued prior to the effective date of this         Act, an accounting of payments made and to be made through the effective date
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ol>	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community         School Board a schedule of values for any construction completed within the         boundaries of the St. George Community School System with the proceeds of         Qualified School Construction Bonds issued prior to the effective date of this         Act, an accounting of payments made and to be made through the effective date         of this Act, on the construction bonds, and a payment schedule showing the
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> </ol>	System.         §68.6. Payments to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities         Improvement District         A. No later than June 1, 2027, the East Baton Rouge Parish Educational         Facilities Improvement District shall provide to the St. George Community         School Board a schedule of values for any construction completed within the         boundaries of the St. George Community School System with the proceeds of         Qualified School Construction Bonds issued prior to the effective date of this         Act, an accounting of payments made and to be made through the effective date         of this Act, on the construction bonds, and a payment schedule showing the         unpaid principal and interest due for the construction projects.

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1	preceding fiscal year attributable to the construction completed within the
2	boundaries of the St. George Community School District. The reimbursement
3	shall be made to East Baton Rouge Parish Educational Facilities Improvement
4	District within thirty days of receipt by the St. George Community School
5	District of payment confirmation for the debt service attributable to
6	construction completed within the boundaries of the St. George Community
7	<u>School System.</u>
8	<u>§68.7. Mutual agreements regarding distribution of assets and liabilities</u>
9	between school boards
10	A. No later than sixty days after the effective date of this Act, the East
11	<b>Baton Rouge Parish School Board and the St. George Community School Board</b>
12	shall meet jointly to begin the process to determine the fair and equitable
13	division of all assets and liabilities between the two school boards related to the
14	<u>formation of the St. George Community School System. The two school boards</u>
15	shall mutually agree upon an actuary, an appraiser, an auditor, or any other
16	professional advisor deemed necessary by the two school boards to determine
17	the valuation of the assets and liabilities. The date of the valuations shall be the
18	effective date of this Act.
19	<b>B.</b> The assets that are required to be valuated, pursuant to Subsection <b>A</b>
20	of this Section, shall include all of the following:
21	(1) All lands, buildings, improvements, facilities, school buses, vehicles,
22	and any other movable or immovable property, whether corporeal or
23	incorporeal, having title or ownership vested in the public and subject to
24	management, administration, and control by the East Baton Rouge Parish
25	School Board for public education purposes that are located within the
26	geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System.
27	(2) Any reserves, trust funds, or other accounts containing funds set
28	aside to pay post employment retirement benefits for employees who retired
29	from schools located within the geographic boundaries of the St. George
30	Community School System prior to the effective date of this Act.

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1	(3) Any reserves, trust funds, or other accounts set aside to pay for
2	maintenance or deferred maintenance on movable or immovable properties
3	located within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School
4	System that are described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.
5	(4) Any insurance policies or reinsurance policies associated with the
6	liabilities listed in Subsection C of this Section.
7	<b>C.</b> The liabilities that are required to be valuated, pursuant to Subsection
8	A of Section, shall include all of the following:
9	(1) Necessary maintenance or depreciation that is associated with those
10	movable or immovable assets listed in Subsection B of this Section.
11	(2) Unfunded accrued liability payments, as provided in R.S. 17:68.4.
12	(3) Benefits related to costs associated with the reemployment of retirees
13	with respect to post employment benefits, as provided in R.S. 17:68.5.
14	(4) Post employment benefits that are due to employees who retired from
15	schools located within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community
16	School System prior to the effective date of this Act. In order to equitably
17	manage the risks associated with and the costs of providing the post
18	employment benefits, the benefit costs shall be calculated on the basis of the
19	benefit plan adopted by the St. George Community School Board for those
20	employees who are employed by the St. George Community School System after
21	the effective date of this Act.
22	D. If, in order to reach a fair and equitable agreement with respect to the
23	division of assets and apportionment of liabilities as provided in this Section
24	results in the requirement that an equalizing payment be made, that payment
25	may be made as a one-time payment or may be structured over a number of
26	years, as agreed by the parties.
27	<b>E. If the two school boards are not able to reach a mutual agreement</b>
28	with respect to the distribution of assets and liabilities, then the two school
29	boards may mutually agree upon an additional service provider to assist in
30	amicable resolution.

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1	<b>F. Nothing in this Section shall operate to delay the transfer of property</b>
2	as required in R.S. 17:68.1 or in any way delay the St. George Community
3	School System from beginning its actual operation of providing for the
4	education of students within its jurisdiction on July 1, 2027.
5	<b>G. For purposes of this Section, the following terms whether used in the</b>
6	singular or plural, shall have the following meanings:
7	(1) "Employees who are retired" or "retiree" means every person who
8	was employed by the school board including administrators, classroom teachers,
9	coaches, librarians, counselors, teachers' aides, clerical employees, lunchroom
10	workers, custodial workers, school bus operators, school bus operators' aides,
11	noninstructional employees, janitors, custodial workers, maintenance workers,
12	bus aides, attendants, or monitors.
13	(2) "Post employment benefits" means health insurance or life insurance
14	attributable to a retiree who was previously employed on the date of his
15	retirement at a school located within the geographic boundaries of the
16	St. George Community School System prior to the effective date of this Act.
16 17	Section 2. R.S. 17:58.2(I) and 67 through 67.4 are hereby repealed.
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17 18	Section 2. R.S. 17:58.2(I) and 67 through 67.4 are hereby repealed. Section 3. Any high school student residing within the geographic boundaries of the
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17 18 19 20 21	Section 2. R.S. 17:58.2(I) and 67 through 67.4 are hereby repealed. Section 3. Any high school student residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System or the East Baton Rouge Parish School System may elect to remain enrolled in the high school that the student was attending on the effective date of this Act, until such time as the student graduates from high school. Such student shall
17 18 19 20 21 22	Section 2. R.S. 17:58.2(I) and 67 through 67.4 are hereby repealed. Section 3. Any high school student residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System or the East Baton Rouge Parish School System may elect to remain enrolled in the high school that the student was attending on the effective date of this Act, until such time as the student graduates from high school. Such student shall be included in the membership count for the school system in which he is enrolled for all
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<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> <li>28</li> </ol>	Section 2. R.S. 17:58.2(I) and 67 through 67.4 are hereby repealed. Section 3. Any high school student residing within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System or the East Baton Rouge Parish School System may elect to remain enrolled in the high school that the student was attending on the effective date of this Act, until such time as the student graduates from high school. Such student shall be included in the membership count for the school system in which he is enrolled for all purposes, including state funding through the Minimum Foundation Program formula. Section 4.(A) Any school student in an elementary or secondary school that resides within the geographic boundaries of the St. George Community School System or the East Baton Rouge Parish School System may elect to remain enrolled in the school that the student was attending on the effective date of this Act as provided in this Section. Such student shall be included in the membership count for the school system in which he is

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1	(B) A student in kindergarten through fifth grade may remain enrolled in the school
2	attended on the effective date of this Act until the completion of fifth grade, and a student
3	in sixth through eighth grade may remain enrolled in the school attended on the effective
4	date of this Act until the completion of eighth grade.
5	(C) Thereafter, no such student shall enroll in a school located outside the geographic
6	boundaries of the school system in which he lives except as otherwise authorized pursuant
7	to the provisions of this Act or any other provision of law.
8	Section 5. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when a proposed
9	amendment to Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana is adopted at
10	a statewide election and which amendment authorizes the St. George Community School
11	System, as created in this Act or authorizes the creation of school districts by legislative act,
12	as a system to be regarded and treated as a parish and have the authority granted to a parish
13	school system as provided in Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

## PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

## SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_