

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 712

2016 Regular Session

Jackson

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

CHILDREN/EXCEPTIONAL: Provides relative to assignment of students with exceptionalities to schools requested by their parents

DIGEST

Present law provides for the responsibilities of local education agencies in providing special education and related services to students with exceptionalities as defined in present law.

Proposed law adds that a student with an exceptionality, except a gifted or talented student, shall be assigned to a school as requested by the parent if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The parent submits a written request to the local education agency responsible for the student and the local education agency having jurisdiction over the school being requested including a recommendation from licensed physicians who have treated the student during the year prior.
- (2) The local education agency responsible for the student and the local education agency having jurisdiction over the school being requested by the parent enter into an agreement for the assignment of the student to the requested school.
- (3) The requested school is at least 10 miles from the school the student is assigned to and at least 15 miles from the student's home.
- (4) The requested school is not located in a public school district in which fifty percent or more of the public schools are charter schools and fifty percent or more of the public schools in the district participate in a single application and enrollment process for public school enrollment.

Present law defines "local education agency" as a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within La. for administrative control and direction of or to perform a service function for public elementary or secondary schools in a city, parish, or other local public school district or other political subdivision. The term includes an education service agency and special schools and school districts and any other public institution or agency having administrative control and direction of a public elementary or secondary school.

(Adds R.S. 17:1944(F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add that a student with an exceptionality, except a gifted or talented student, shall be assigned to a school as requested by the parent if certain conditions are met as specified in proposed law.
2. Delete proposed law requirement that local education agencies, in accordance with federal law and to the greatest extent possible, ensure that a student with an exceptionality is educated in the school closest to the student's home regardless of the school attendance zone requirements.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Clarifies that a school system in which the majority of schools participate in a single application and enrollment process is exempt from the provisions of proposed law.