
DIGEST

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HB 538 Original

2017 Regular Session

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Abstract: Applicable to service as a member of an elected school board or charter school governing board, provides that possession of a high school diploma is required for eligibility and disqualifies persons who have been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to certain crimes.

Traditional School Boards

Present law provides for the election of school board members in accordance with the present law provisions of the La. Election Code. Provides that a person is eligible for membership on a school board if he, at the time of qualification as a candidate, is at least 18, has resided in the state for the preceding two years, and has been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the parish, ward, or district from which he seeks election. Provides that in addition to these qualifications, each school board member shall be able to read and write.

Proposed law retains present law and provides as follows:

- (1) Adds that a person shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent in order to be eligible for membership on a school board.
- (2) Provides that any person who at the time of qualification as a candidate for a school board has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)) is not eligible to serve on a school board.

Charter School Boards

Present law requires that each proposed charter shall contain or make provision for the organizational, governance, and operational structure of the school and provides that any qualifications required of charter school administrators and governing board members shall be as prescribed in the charter school agreement. Proposed law adds that qualifications for governing board members shall include, at a minimum, possession of a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Present law prohibits a charter school from hiring anyone who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)). Proposed law adds that should a charter school be established with a management or governing board, no such person shall serve on such board.

(Amends R.S. 17:52(E)(1) and 3991(A)(1)(b) and (B)(10); Adds R.S. 17:52(F))

