

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 209

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA. Provides for the Louisiana Early College Opportunity Act. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:3165.3 and 3168(7), and to repeal Subpart A-3 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:187.1 through 187.5, R.S. 17:2929 and 3137, relative to articulation and transfer of credits; to provide relative to the provision, eligibility, and costs of dual enrollment courses; to provide relative to the responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Regents, public postsecondary education management boards and local education agencies; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3165.3 and 3168(7) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§3165.3. Dual enrollment and early college opportunity**

**A. This Act shall be known as the "Louisiana Early College Opportunity Act".**

**B. The public postsecondary education management boards, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Regents, and each local education agency shall collaborate and coordinate efforts to provide public**

1 postsecondary educational opportunities to eligible public high school students  
2 through dual enrollment courses.

3 C. Dual enrollment courses may include:

4 (1) Postsecondary education courses leading to credit that will transfer  
5 to a Louisiana public college or university and which will apply toward an  
6 associate's or bachelor's degree program. Such courses shall include English  
7 composition, mathematics, sciences, humanities, social sciences, and fine arts.

8 (2) Remedial and developmental courses to assist students in acquiring  
9 the skills needed to successfully complete entry-level college English or  
10 mathematics courses.

11 (3) Career and technical education courses aligned with the career major  
12 diploma option as provided in R.S. 17:183.1 through 183.5.

13 D. The Board of Regents, each public postsecondary education  
14 management board, and each public postsecondary institution, as appropriate,  
15 shall:

16 (1) Approve academic eligibility requirements for a high school student  
17 to enroll in dual enrollment courses offered by an institution under its  
18 management and supervision.

19 (2)(a) Annually establish and publish maximum tuition costs which may  
20 be charged to a local education agency for dual enrollment courses delivered:

21 (i) On the campus of a public postsecondary institution.

22 (ii) Electronically by an instructor employed by the postsecondary  
23 institution.

24 (iii) On a high school campus taught by an instructor employed by a  
25 postsecondary institution.

26 (b) There shall be no charge to a local education agency for a dual  
27 enrollment course taught by an employee of the local education agency.

28 However, a public postsecondary institution may charge the local education  
29 agency for any required textbooks, course materials, any costs associated with

1 applying course credit to a public postsecondary institution transcript, and any  
2 costs associated with instructor training.

3 (c) A postsecondary institution may not charge a local education agency  
4 an amount for a dual enrollment course that exceeds the amount charged to a  
5 postsecondary student for a similar course.

6 (3) Require each institution under its management and supervision  
7 servng as a course provider pursuant to R.S. 17:4002.4 to annually provide to  
8 the state Department of Education a list of dual enrollment courses offered,  
9 including any prerequisites, the course delivery method, and, if applicable, the  
10 location where the course will be offered.

11 E. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

12 (1) Require each local education agency to establish a process to:

13 (a) Identify high school students who are academically prepared for  
14 college coursework and identify high school students who are not on track to be  
15 academically prepared for entry-level college courses.

16 (b) Notify each identified student of the availability of such dual  
17 enrollment courses through the process of developing and annually updating  
18 student Individual Graduation Plans required pursuant to R.S. 17:2925.

19 (c) Provide access to dual enrollment courses at no cost to the student.  
20 However, a local education agency shall not pay any costs that are provided to,  
21 or on behalf of, a student who has been awarded any federal or state scholarship  
22 or grant that fully or partially funds the cost of participating in dual enrollment  
23 courses.

24 (2) Require the state Department of Education to assist local education  
25 agencies to identify state and federal funds which, in addition to local funds,  
26 may be used to support student participation in dual enrollment courses.

27 F. The Board of Regents shall ensure consistency of content and rigor  
28 across all courses, including dual enrollment courses, for which postsecondary  
29 education course credit is awarded.

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§3168. Reporting

The Board of Regents shall submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on education, not later than September thirtieth of each year, on the status of statewide articulation and transfer of credit across all educational institutions in Louisiana as provided in this Chapter. Such report shall, at a minimum, include the following:

\* \* \*

**(7)(a) The number and percentage of high school students who take dual enrollment courses.**

**(b) The number and percentage of high school students who pass dual enrollment courses, including data by student subgroups.**

**(c) The number of postsecondary credits earned by students enrolled in dual enrollment courses.**

**(d) The number and percentage of high school students who take and pass CLEP examinations.**

**(e) Postsecondary degree attainment for students who did and did not participate in dual enrollment courses.**

**(f) The amount charged to local education agencies for dual enrollment courses.**

**(g) The estimated savings to the state and students attributable to dual enrollment courses.**

**(h) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall assist the Board of Regents in reporting the information required by this Paragraph.**

Section 2. Subpart A-3 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:187.1 through 187.5, R.S. 17:2929 and 3137 are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 3 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl M. Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jeanne Johnston.

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DIGEST

SB 209 Engrossed                      2017 Regular Session                      Walsworth

Present law provides for the articulation and transfer of credit between and among public secondary and postsecondary institutions.

Present law requires the Board of Regents (BoR) and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to enter into a statewide articulation agreement to govern the articulation and transfer of credit between and among the state's public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and defines the minimum expectations contained in the agreements. Additionally requires the Board of Regents to annually report to the house and senate education committees.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the public postsecondary education management boards, BESE, BoR, and local education agencies (LEAs) to collaborate and coordinate efforts to provide dual enrollment courses. Provides that such courses may include:

- (1) Postsecondary education courses that lead to credits that will apply toward an associate's or bachelor's degree.
- (2) Remedial and developmental courses to assist students in acquiring skills necessary to successfully complete entry-level college English or mathematics courses.
- (3) Career and technical courses aligned with the career major diploma.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents, each public postsecondary management board, and each postsecondary institution, as appropriate, to:

- (1) Approve academic requirements for dual enrollment courses.
- (2) Annually establish and publish maximum tuition costs which may be charged to a LEA for dual enrollment courses. Prohibits postsecondary institutions from charging tuition costs to a LEA for dual enrollment courses taught by an employee of the LEA, but allows an institution to charge for required textbooks, course materials, costs associated with applying course credit to a postsecondary transcript, and costs associated with instructor training. Further prohibits institutions from charging an LEA more for a dual enrollment course than it charges for a similar postsecondary course.
- (3) Require each postsecondary institution serving as a course choice provider to annually provide to the state Department of Education a list of dual enrollment courses offered, including prerequisites, course delivery method, and location where the course will be offered.

Proposed law requires BESE to direct each LEA to establish a process to:

- (1) Identify high school students who are academically prepared for college coursework and identify high school students who are not on track to be college ready.
- (2) Notify each identified student of the availability of dual enrollment courses through the Individual Graduation Plan development process.
- (3) Provide access to such dual enrollment courses at no cost to the student. Prohibits an LEA from paying any costs on behalf of a student awarded state or federal financial assistance that funds dual enrollment courses.

Proposed law directs BESE to require the state Department of Education to assist LEAs to identify state and federal funds that can be used to supplement local funds to support student participation in dual enrollment courses.

Proposed law requires the BoR to ensure consistency of content and rigor across all courses, including dual enrollment courses, for which postsecondary credit is awarded. Additionally requires BoR to include the following dual enrollment information in its annual articulation and transfer report to the senate and house education committees:

- (1) The number and percentage of high school students enrolling in dual enrollment courses.
- (2) The number and percentage of high school students who pass dual enrollment courses, including data by student subgroups.
- (3) The number of postsecondary credits earned through dual enrollment.
- (4) The number and percentage of high school students who take and pass CLEP examinations.
- (5) Postsecondary degree attainment for students who did and did not participate in dual enrollment courses.
- (6) The amount charged to LEAs for dual enrollment courses.
- (7) The estimated savings to the state and students attributable to dual enrollment courses.

Requires BESE to assist the Board of Regents in reporting this information.

Proposed law deletes obsolete provisions in present law relative to dual enrollment and articulation and transfer.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3165.3 and 3168(7); repeals R.S. 17:187.1-187.5, R.S. 17:2929 and 3137)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Requires Bd. of Regents and postsecondary boards and institutions to "approve" instead of "establish" academic eligibility requirements for dual enrollment courses.
2. Allows postsecondary institutions to charge LEAs for costs associated applying dual enrollment credits to postsecondary transcripts and costs for

instructor training, in addition to charging for textbooks and course materials.

3. Revises the list of required information to be provided by postsecondary institutions with regard to dual enrollment courses.
4. Prohibits LEAs from paying costs on behalf of a student receiving state or federal financial aid that funds dual enrollment costs.
5. Requires BESE to assist the Bd. of Regents in reporting required information.