

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 622 (HB 306)

2018 Regular Session

Thomas

Existing law authorizes local public school boards to establish foreign language immersion programs. Requires a school board to establish a foreign language immersion program if requested in writing by the parents of at least 25 students seeking enrollment in kindergarten or 25 students seeking enrollment in first grade if specified criteria are met. Prohibits school boards from denying enrollment in such programs if specified conditions are met, including an enrollment application deadline. Provides that school boards are not required to provide transportation to a student enrolled in a foreign language program that is outside of the attendance zone of the school the student would have otherwise attended if doing so would be a cost to the school system.

Existing law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to certify foreign language immersion programs that meet specified criteria. Requires a school board to ensure that any program established is certified within three years of being established.

Existing law requires BESE to include in the school and district accountability system a component to award points to schools for foreign language immersion programs.

New law provides as follows:

- (1) Specifies that "foreign language immersion program" means any type of dual language immersion program in French or Spanish and limits applicability of all aspects of existing law and new law to programs in French or Spanish.
- (2) Changes deadlines for submitting requests to establish a program and for student enrollment applications.
- (3) Adds requirements for school boards relative to notifying parents of the number of requests submitted, informing parents of new programs, and considerations with regard to program location.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2) and (E)(4); Adds R.S. 17:10.1(G)(4), 273.2(D), and 273.3(H))