

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 124

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

SCHOOLS. Requires the state Department of Education to provide student attendance data of certain students to local school governing authorities. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221(E), relative to school attendance; to provide relative to

3 reporting and recording attendance of certain students by the Louisiana Department

4 of Education; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:221(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §221. School attendance; compulsory ages; duty of parents; excessive absences;

8 condition for driving privileges

9 * * *

10 E.(1)(a) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit a child from

11 enrolling in an approved home study program or a nonpublic school not seeking state

12 approval. The parent or legal guardian responsible for the school attendance of such

13 a child, who is between the ages of five and eighteen, shall report the attendance of

14 the child to the state Department of Education within thirty days of the start of the

15 school term as provided in R.S. 17:232(C).

16 **(b) For each student whose attendance is reported to the department**

17 **pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the department shall:**

home study program or a nonpublic school not seeking state approval to report the attendance of the student in such program or school to the state Department of Education (DOE).

Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law further requires DOE to provide notice of such attendance of a student in an approved home study program or nonpublic school not seeking state approval to the governing authority of the public school in which the student was most recently enrolled, and, if different, the governing authority of the public school which the student would otherwise attend.

Proposed law also provides that DOE shall not record such a student reported to DOE as a dropout attributable to the public school where he was most recently enrolled or to the public school which he would otherwise attend, unless the student subsequently enrolls in and attends the public school.

Proposed law provides that such students reported to DOE are the responsibility of DOE relative to compulsory school attendance issues.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:221(E))