

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 688

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: Provides relative to sabbatical leave for teachers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1176(B), relative to sabbatical leave for teachers; to authorize  
3 teachers whose applications for sabbatical leave are denied by the superintendent to  
4 appeal to the school board; to provide a process relative to the school board's  
5 consideration of the appeal; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:1176(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1176. Grounds for rejection of application

9 \* \* \*

10 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, all decisions  
11 relative to the granting of leave pursuant to this Section shall be made by the  
12 superintendent of the local public school system. If the superintendent denies an  
13 application, the applicant may appeal the decision to the school board. Any such  
14 appeal shall be made in writing to the president of the school board within fifteen  
15 work-days after receipt of the denial. Upon receipt of the appeal, the school board  
16 shall conduct a full hearing relative to the appeal at the next scheduled school board  
17 meeting, maintain a transcript of the proceedings, make a written recommendation  
18 for disposition of the appeal, and provide a copy of the decision and the transcript to  
19 the applicant and superintendent within five work-days.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 688 Original

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Phelps

**Abstract:** Provides that teachers may appeal denied applications for sabbatical leave.

Present law provides relative to sabbatical leave for teachers employed by local public school boards.

Present law provides that any applicant who, at the expiration of the semester in which he applies, is ineligible for the sabbatical leave requested or who has not complied with present law, shall have his application rejected. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that all other applicants may have their applications granted as long as the number of persons on sabbatical leave in a given school year does not exceed 5% of the total number of teachers employed in a given school system. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that all decisions relative to the granting of sabbatical leave shall be made by the local superintendent. Proposed law retains present law but adds that if the superintendent denies an application, the teacher may appeal the decision to the school board and that any such appeal shall be submitted in writing to the president of the school board within 15 work-days after receipt of the denial. Provides that upon receipt of such appeal, the school board shall conduct a full hearing relative to the appeal at the next scheduled school board meeting, maintain a transcript of the proceedings, make a written recommendation for the disposition of the appeal, and provide a copy of the decision and the transcript to the applicant and superintendent within five work-days.

Present law and proposed law are applicable not only to certificated teachers but to any social worker, school counselor, school nurse, audiologist, educational diagnostician, speech-language pathologist, or school psychologist who holds the appropriate valid professional ancillary certificate issued by the state Dept. of Education.

(Amends R.S. 17:1176(B))