

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 315

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES OWEN

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

STUDENTS: Provides relative to administration of public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:263(A), 264(A)(1), 266, 267(A), 271(A), 273(C), 274, 274.1(A),
3 279(A), 281(A)(1)(a) and (G), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), 377, 381, and 416.21(N)(3)(b)(ii), to
4 enact R.S. 17:264(C), and to repeal R.S. 17:253 and 274.1(B)(2) and (D)(2)(b),
5 relative to the administration of public schools; to provide relative to required
6 instruction in public schools; to abolish the Advisory Council on Student Behavior
7 and Discipline; to provide relative to donations to schools; to provide relative to the
8 diploma endorsement program for the performance of community service by high
9 school students; to provide relative to textbooks and other instructional materials; to
10 provide relative to the Quality Science and Mathematics Program; to provide for
11 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Teachers'
14 Relief and Education Reform and School District Reform Act".

15 Section 2. R.S. 17:263(A), 264(A)(1), 267(A), 271(A), 273(C), 274, 274.1(A),
16 279(A), 281(A)(1)(a) and (G), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), 377, 381, and 416.21(N)(3)(b)(ii) are
17 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:264(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

18 §263. Adoption awareness; required instruction

19 A. Adoption awareness shall be required instruction for high school students
20 in public and nonpublic secondary schools in a manner deemed appropriate by the

1 school principal. However, the superintendent of a school district or his designee
2 may waive the requirements of this Section for any school year if the instruction
3 required by this Section will impede on instructional time for English language arts,
4 mathematics, science, or social studies. The superintendent shall maintain
5 documentation of such waiver.

6 * * *

7 §264. Community service; high school diploma endorsement program

8 A.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may
9 establish a "Distinction for Community Service" diploma endorsement program to
10 recognize high school students who perform a certain number of hours of
11 documented community service. Community service hours shall not count toward
12 academic course work or graded work in any public school. The number of service
13 hours required to earn a diploma endorsement shall be determined by the state board
14 and shall accrue from the ninth grade through the twelfth grade.

15 * * *

16 C. The community service performed pursuant to this Section shall not be
17 related to political activities of any kind.

18 * * *

19 §267. Litter prevention and awareness; required instruction

20 A. Instruction in litter prevention and awareness shall be provided to each
21 public school student in kindergarten through grade five. Such instruction shall be
22 integrated into the existing curriculum and may include instructional materials
23 created and developed for students in Louisiana to assist such students in making
24 environmentally sound decisions and understanding the vital role they play in
25 preserving the beauty of the state. However, the superintendent of a school district
26 or his designee may waive the requirements of this Section for any school year if the
27 instruction required by this Section will impede on instructional time for English

1 language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies. The superintendent shall
2 maintain documentation of such waiver.

3 * * *

4 §271. Shaken baby syndrome; instruction

5 A. Each public high school shall provide instruction in the recognition and
6 prevention of shaken baby syndrome. Such instruction shall be integrated into an
7 existing course of study. However, the superintendent of a school district or his
8 designee may waive the requirements of this Section for any school year if the
9 instruction required by this Section will impede on instructional time for English
10 language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies. The superintendent shall
11 maintain documentation of such waiver.

12 * * *

13 §273. Second languages; teaching in public schools

14 * * *

15 C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish
16 guidelines, regulations, and policies for the implementation of a ~~comprehensive~~
17 ~~curriculum~~ statewide standard in a second language in a well articulated sequential
18 manner in order to carry out the intent of this Section.

19 * * *

20 §274. Free enterprise; elective course

21 Public high schools may give instruction in an elective course in free
22 enterprise in accordance with a course of study prescribed by the State Board of
23 Elementary and Secondary Education for at least one semester, equal to one-half unit
24 of credit. ~~The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe~~
25 ~~suitable teaching materials for the instruction.~~

26 §274.1. Civics and Free Enterprise; required; exceptions

27 A. Except as provided in Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) of this Section, all public
28 high schools shall give instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to
29 graduation. Instruction shall be given in accordance with the course of study

1 prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided
2 in this Section. ~~The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall~~
3 ~~prescribe suitable teaching materials for the instruction.~~

4 * * *

5 §279. Parenthood education; required course

6 A.(1) All public high schools offering home economics programs shall
7 provide instruction in parenthood education. However, the superintendent of a
8 school district or his designee may waive the requirements of this Section for any
9 school year if the instruction required by this Section will impede on instructional
10 time for English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies. The
11 superintendent shall maintain documentation of such waiver.

12 (2) All other public high schools may provide instruction in parenthood
13 education.

14 * * *

15 §281. Instruction in sex education

16 A.(1)(a) Any public ~~elementary or~~ secondary school in Louisiana may, but
17 is not required to, offer instruction in subject matter designated as "sex education",
18 provided such instruction and subject matter is integrated into an existing course of
19 study such as biology, science, physical hygiene, or physical education. When
20 offered, such instruction shall be available also to nongraded special education
21 students at age-appropriate levels. Except as otherwise required to comply with the
22 provisions of Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, whether or not instruction in such
23 matter is offered and at what grade level it is to be offered shall be at the option of
24 each public local or parish school board, ~~provided that no such instruction shall be~~
25 ~~offered in kindergarten or in grades one through six. Such instruction may be~~
26 ~~offered at times other than during the regular school day, at such times to be~~
27 ~~determined by each school board.~~ All instruction in "sex education" shall be
28 identified and designated "sex education".

29 * * *

1 §381. Acceptance of donations by state and parish school boards

2 The ~~state board of education~~ State Board of Elementary and Secondary
3 Education and ~~the several parish school boards may,~~ any school board, in accordance
4 with the provisions of this Part, may accept and administer any donation that may be
5 made to them for educational or literary purposes, and each board shall enumerate
6 details of the contents of such donations in a document made publicly available on
7 its website.

8 * * *

9 §416.21. Behavior of students with exceptionalities; use of seclusion and physical
10 restraint

11 * * *

12 N.

13 * * *

14 (3)

15 * * *

16 (b)

17 * * *

18 (ii) The state Department of Education shall post the annual report on its
19 website and submit a written copy to the Senate and House committees on education
20 ~~and the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline established pursuant~~
21 ~~to R.S. 17:253.~~

22 Section 3. R.S. 17:266 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

23 §266. Cursive writing; required instruction

24 A. Cursive writing shall be taught in all public schools. Each public school
25 shall ensure that such instruction is introduced by the third grade and incorporated
26 into the curriculum in grades four through twelve.

27 B. Each public school governing authority shall provide a written report to
28 the state Department of Education each school year confirming the instruction of
29 cursive writing as provided by this Section. The department shall compile the

1 reports and submit a compiled report to the legislature no later than July thirty-first
2 of each calendar year.

3 Section 4. R.S. 17:253 and 274.1(B)(2) and (D)(2)(b) are hereby repealed in their
4 entirety.

5 Section 5.(A) The provisions of Sections 1, 3, and 4 and this Section of this Act shall
6 be effective on August 1, 2023.

7 (B) The provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on January 1,
8 2024.

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)]

HB 315 Original

2023 Regular Session

Charles Owen

Abstract: Provides relative to public school administration.

Present law (R.S. 17:264) authorizes the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish a "Distinction for Community Service" diploma endorsement program for high school students who perform community service. Proposed law retains present law but prohibits the following:

- (1) Students from receiving academic credit for community service.
- (2) Political activity from qualifying as community service for purposes of present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:266) requires that cursive writing be taught in all public schools, including charter schools. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires each public school governing authority to report to the state Dept. of Education (DOE) relative to the implementation of present law. Further requires DOE to submit a cumulative report to the legislature by July 31st each year.

Present law (R.S. 17:274) provides for an elective course for public high school students in free enterprise. Present law (R.S. 17:274.1) requires all public high schools to provide instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to graduation. Proposed law retains present law. Present law requires BESE to prescribe suitable teaching materials for such instruction. Proposed law removes this requirement.

Present law (R.S. 17:281) authorizes any public elementary or secondary school to offer instruction in sex education, provided such instruction is integrated into an existing course of study such as biology, science, physical hygiene, or physical education. Proposed law retains present law but removes authorization for instruction to be offered in public elementary schools. Present law authorizes instruction to be offered at times other than during the regular school day. Proposed law removes this authorization. Present law authorizes a city or parish school system to accept federal funds for programs offering sex education upon approval by the local school board. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the school board to approve the funds on an annual basis in a public meeting at a time and place advertised by the school board at least two weeks prior to the

meeting.

Present law (R.S. 17:377) authorizes the activities of the Quality Science and Mathematics Council (R.S. 17:374) and the implementation of the program to be reviewed by the legislative education committees. Proposed law requires, instead of authorizes, such review. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:253) creates the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline to provide advice and guidance to BESE and DOE regarding best practices in providing support to public school governing authorities in the adoption and implementation of each school's master plan for student behavior and discipline as provided in present law (R.S. 17:252). Proposed law abolishes the council.

Present law requires instruction in adoption awareness (R.S. 17:263), litter prevention and awareness (R.S. 17:267), shaken baby syndrome (R.S. 17:271), and parenthood education (R.S. 17:279). Proposed law retains present law and additionally authorizes a superintendent or his designee to waive the requirement if the instruction would impede on instructional time for English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies.

Present law provides relative to public review of textbooks. Requires that student editions of textbooks be made available online. Proposed law requires all editions of textbooks be made available online and in-person.

Present law authorizes BESE and school boards to accept donations for educational and literary purposes. Proposed law requires such boards to make details of such donations available on their websites.

Effective in part August 1, 2023; effective in part January 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 17:263(A), 264(A)(1), 266, 267(A), 271(A), 273(C), 274, 274.1(A), 279(A), 281(A)(1)(a) and (G), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), 377, 381, and 416.21(N)(3)(b)(ii); Adds R.S. 17:264(C); Repeals R.S. 17:253 and 274.1(B)(2) and (D)(2)(b))