
DIGEST

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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))