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The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by LG Sullivan.

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DIGEST

SB 81 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

McMath

Proposed law allows the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop an associate educator program, whereby a governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may authorize a program participant to serve as a teacher.

Proposed law requires BESE to develop rules for the program through the APA and allows the rules to make further provisions with regard to participant qualifications and requirements. Further provides that the governing authority may establish stricter participation requirements than established by proposed law or BESE rules.

Proposed law requires a participant to have an associate's degree, be enrolled and remain continuously enrolled in an undergraduate teacher education program for the purpose of obtaining a bachelor's degree, be at least 25 years of age, and meet all other qualifications provided for in proposed law, board rules, or the requirements of the local governing authority.

Proposed law limits a participant to teaching only in the content area related to the participant's associate's degree and prohibits the participant from teaching in a class for students with exceptionalities, unless it is a class for gifted or talented students.

Proposed law provides that for a participant who is enrolled in an approved teacher education program that the hours spent teaching as an associate educator shall count toward the required student teaching hours.

Proposed law limits the number of participants in the program that may be employed by a governing authority to ten percent of the teaching staff of the governing authority. Further limits the salary of a participant to not more than 75% of the average yearly classroom teacher salary of the employing school system.

Proposed law requires, subject to appropriation, the governing authority to assign a mentor teacher to each participant for the purpose of providing on-site training, assistance, and feedback. Further requires the participant to participate in weekly teacher collaborations.

Proposed law requires the governing authority to conduct a criminal history record check prior to allowing a participant to work as a teacher.

Proposed law requires the board to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and report its findings and conclusions to the legislature no later than December 29, 2028.

Proposed law terminates the provisions of proposed law shall terminate on December 31, 2033.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:7.8)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Limit proposed law to persons enrolled in teacher education programs.
2. Raise the age for participation from age 21 to age 25.
3. Provide for a five-year progress report.
4. Terminate the program after ten years.