

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 169

2023 Regular Session

Robert Owen

June 8, 2023

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 169 by Representative Robert Owen, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Education (#2379) be rejected.
2. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Mizell (#2719) be rejected.
3. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Peacock (#2789) be rejected.
4. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "17:81(CC)" and before "relative" delete the comma "," and insert ", 158(K), and 3996(B)(75),"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 4, after "policies;" and before "and" insert "to provide for applicability to nonpublic schools;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 6, after "17:81(CC)" and before "hereby" delete "is" and insert ", 158(K), and 3996(B)(75) are"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, delete lines 12 through 19 and insert the following:

"(1) Students shall remain a safe distance from the pick up area behind something material or immaterial intended to block passage, as deemed appropriate for the particular school building.

(2) Students shall wait in the pick up area and wait for vehicles to come to a complete stop.

(3) A student being dropped off shall remain in the appropriate passenger restraint until the vehicle in which he is a passenger comes to a complete stop."

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, line 1, after "through" and before "shall" change "five" to "three"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 2, at the end of line 2, delete "vehicle." and insert "pick up area."

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 2, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

"* * *

§158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators; alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds; loading and unloading students

* * *

K. The provisions of R.S. 17:81(CC) relative to carpool and bus line policies apply to any nonpublic school for which transportation of students is provided by a city, parish, or other local public school board.

* * *

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

* * *

B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(75) Carpool and bus line policies, R.S. 17:81(CC).

* * *"

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Robert "Bob" Stanford Owen

Senator Cleo Fields

Representative Lance Harris

Senator Barrow Peacock

Representative Vincent J. St. Blanc III

Senator Beth Mizell

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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 169

2023 Regular Session

Robert Owen

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

SCHOOLS: Provides for safety protocols for elementary school students when being dropped off at and picked up from school

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Apply proposed law to charter schools.
2. Remove proposed law requirement that, at a minimum, the policy established by public school governing authorities require that:
 - (a) Students must remain behind a physical barrier before entering a pick up area.
 - (b) A school employee working in the pick up area wear a traffic vest.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Applied proposed law to all nonpublic schools.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Make technical changes to the Senate amendments.
2. Relative to the policy established by public school governing authorities, require that, at a minimum students in grades kindergarten through *three*, instead of kindergarten through *five*, be accompanied by a school employee while walking to and from a *pick up area*, instead of a *vehicle*.
3. Apply proposed law to nonpublic schools for which transportation of students is provided by a city, parish, or other local public school board.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law (R.S. 17:81) provides for the general powers and duties of local public school boards.

Proposed law requires each public school governing authority to establish a policy for carpool and bus lines at schools with grades kindergarten through five. Includes charter schools.

At a minimum, the policy shall:

- (1) Require students to remain a safe distance from the pick up area behind something material or immaterial intended to block passage.
- (2) Require students wait in the pick up area and wait for vehicles to come to a complete stop.

- (3) Require a student being dropped off to remain in a passenger restraint until the vehicle in which he is a passenger comes to a complete stop.
- (4) Require that students in grades kindergarten through three be accompanied by a school employee while walking to and from a pick up area.
- (5) Require school administrators to post signage regarding the policy.

Present law (R.S. 17:158) provides relative to transportation of students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Requires a city, parish, or other local public school board to provide transportation to any student attending a school approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education within the jurisdictional boundaries of the board to provide transportation to and from school.

Proposed law applies to any nonpublic school for which transportation of students is provided by a public school board.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(CC), 158(K), and 3996(B)(75))