

SENATE BILL NO. 150

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS AND REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

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

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AN ACT

To enact Part XIII of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:410.11, and R.S. 36:651(F)(8), relative to literacy; to create the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission; to provide for membership, quorum, staffing, and powers and duties of the commission; to require certain reports; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part XIII of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:410.11, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§410.11. Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission**

**A. The Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission, referred to in this Section as the "commission", is created within the Department of Education for the purpose of providing recommendations for improving, strengthening, and supporting literacy in Louisiana.**

**B. The commission shall be comprised of the following members:**

**(1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.**

**(2) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.**

1                   **(3) The governor or his designee.**

2                   **(4) The state superintendent of education or his designee.**

3                   **(5) The president of the Center for Literacy and Learning or his**  
4                   **designee.**

5                   **(6) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry**  
6                   **or his designee.**

7                   **(7) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School**  
8                   **Superintendents or his designee.**

9                   **(8) A staff member of the Board of Regents appointed by the**  
10                   **commissioner of higher education, who shall serve at the pleasure of the**  
11                   **commissioner.**

12                   **(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Association for the Education**  
13                   **of Young Children or his designee.**

14                   **(10) One teacher selected by the Louisiana Association of Educators.**

15                   **(11) One teacher selected by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.**

16                   **(12) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public**  
17                   **Charter Schools or his designee.**

18                   **(13) One member appointed by the State Board of Elementary and**  
19                   **Secondary Education.**

20                   **(14) A teacher from Louisiana Key Academy appointed by the**  
21                   **academy's chief education officer.**

22                   **(15) The leader of Decoding Dyslexia or his designee.**

23                   **C.(1) A vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in**  
24                   **the same manner as the original appointment.**

25                   **(2)(a) The commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from**  
26                   **among its membership.**

27                   **(b) The state superintendent of education shall call the first meeting no**  
28                   **later than September 1, 2023, and shall preside over the meeting until the**  
29                   **commission elects a chairman.**

30                   **(3) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation**

1 except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually  
2 entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

3 (4) The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman but not less  
4 frequently than once every three months. At each meeting the state Department  
5 of Education shall provide updates on the progress of implementation of the  
6 commission's recommendations. The commission shall make any further  
7 recommendations necessary to fulfill its duties.

8 (5) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a  
9 quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of the members present and  
10 voting shall be necessary for the commission to take any action. The commission  
11 and any committees created pursuant to Paragraph (E)(5) of this Section shall  
12 be domiciled in Baton Rouge but may hold public hearings elsewhere in the  
13 state. All meetings of the commission and its committees shall comply with the  
14 provisions of the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq.

15 D. The state Department of Education shall provide staff and other  
16 support for the commission.

17 E. The commission shall study and make recommendations to the State  
18 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of  
19 Education, and the legislature for improving literacy in Louisiana. When  
20 conducting analysis and making recommendations, the commission shall have  
21 the following powers and duties:

22 (1) To serve as the advisory board to the State Board of Elementary and  
23 Secondary Education and the state Department of Education on matters  
24 relating to literacy.

25 (2) To research and analyze all policies, regulations, and procedures  
26 relative to the implementation of literacy initiatives, reforms, and practices.

27 (3) To formulate policy and programming recommendations and to  
28 report those recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
29 Education, the state Department of Education, and the legislature in accordance  
30 with the provisions of Subsection F of this Section.

1                   (4) To request and review state, regional, and national literacy data to  
2                   determine and understand the effectiveness and impact of literacy initiatives,  
3                   reforms, and practices.

4                   (5) To establish and appoint members of the commission to committees  
5                   to identify, analyze, and make recommendations to the commission in the areas  
6                   of:

- 7                   (a) Dyslexia.
- 8                   (b) Early childhood literacy.
- 9                   (c) Any other area deemed appropriate by the commission.

10                   F. Not later than February sixth annually, the commission shall provide  
11                   a report of its findings and recommendations and the status of the  
12                   implementation of its recommendations to the governor, the members of the  
13                   legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of  
14                   Elementary and Secondary Education. The report shall be submitted to the  
15                   David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and  
16                   772.

17 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(F)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

18 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of  
19                   Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of  
20                   Education

21   \*         \*         \*

22                   F. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the  
23                   Department of Education as provided in R.S. 36:901 et seq.:

24   \*         \*         \*

25                   (8) The Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission (R.S. 17:410.11).

26   \*         \*         \*

27                   Section 3. The Louisiana Early Literacy Commission provided for in Senate  
28                   Resolution No. 133 of the 2021 Regular Session is hereby terminated.

29                   Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
30                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
3 effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_