
DIGEST

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HB 657 Original

2024 Regular Session

Amedee

Abstract: Increases the membership of the Council for the Development of French in La. (CODOFIL) and expands the powers, duties, functions, and reporting responsibilities of the council.

Present law creates CODOFIL within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism with the purpose to preserve, promote, and develop Louisiana's French and Creole culture, heritage, and language.

Present law provides for the appointment of 23 members of the council.

Proposed law provides for the addition of six members to the council as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by Télé-Louisiane.
- (2) One member appointed by l'Assemblée de la Louisiane.
- (3) One member appointed by École Pointe-au-Chien.
- (4) One member appointed by the Alliance Française of New Orleans.
- (5) One member appointed by the state-recognized Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe.
- (6) One member appointed by the state-recognized Jean Charles Choctaw Nation.

Proposed law requires the council or its staff to annually meet with the school boards of each of the parishes specified in present law where no French immersion program exists, charter school organizations, parent groups, or other stakeholders in order to provide information on and assistance with the process of creating such programs.

Present law requires the council to submit an annual report to the governor, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, and the chairman of the House Committee on Education regarding all actions taken and progress made towards achieving the purposes and duties of the council

Proposed law adds the lieutenant governor as a recipient of the council's annual report. Requires the council staff to prepare the report and include specific numeric metrics of progress, including the following:

- (1) The number of new French immersion schools per year
- (2) The number of new parishes with French immersion programs
- (3) The specific outreach efforts undertaken to expand French immersion to new communities.

(Amends R.S. 25:652(A)(intro. para.) and 655; Adds R.S. 25:652(A)(17)-(22) and 653(F))