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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

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DIGEST

SB 350 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Edmonds

Proposed law changes the short cite for Chapter 42 of Title 17 from "Charter School Demonstration Programs Law" to "Louisiana Public Charter School Law".

Present law (R.S. 17:3972) authorizes experimentation by city and parish school boards to create innovative kinds of independent public schools.

Proposed law removes authorization of experimentation from city and parish school boards and further allows for authorization of school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils through creation of innovative kinds of independent public charter schools.

Proposed law defines "autonomy" as, unless mutually agreed upon by the chartering authority and charter school, or otherwise required or prohibited by law, the charter school shall have independent operational decision making authority in the areas including but not limited to:

- (1) School programming, instruction, curriculum, materials, texts, calendars, and schedules;
- (2) Personnel, employment, salaries and benefits, educator certification and evaluation, performance management, participation in retirement planning, and collective bargaining;
- (3) Budgeting, purchasing, procurement, contracts, food service, and management of transportation.

Present law (R.S. 17:3983) requires each proposal for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school must first be made to the local school board with jurisdiction where the school is to be located.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the applicant must also provide notice of application submission for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school to the state Department of Education.

Proposed law provides that a charter school must have the autonomy necessary to manage its educational programming and daily operations in accordance with law, policy, and contract.

Proposed law provides for extending the protections and liability limitations as required in state law that is applicable to public schools, public school officers and employees to charter schools, its officers and employees.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), (B)(1)(intra para) and (B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i);

adds 3991(C)(7) and 3996(I)