

SENATE BILL NO. 350

BY SENATORS EDMONDS AND CLOUD AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE,
CARLSON, FREIBERG AND OWEN

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1) and 3972(B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i) and to enact R.S. 17:3991(C)(7), relative to charter schools; to provide relative to the purpose and definitions applicable to charter schools and their establishment; to provide relative to eligibility to propose a charter; to provide relative to the contents, renewal, and revocation of a charter; to provide with respect to the requirements and authorities of a charter school; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1) and 3972(B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3991(C)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 42. LOUISIANA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ~~DEMONSTRATION~~

PROGRAMS LAW

PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3971. Short citation

This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Public Charter School ~~Demonstration Programs~~ Law".

§3972. Intent and purpose

A. It is the intention of the legislature in enacting this Chapter to authorize school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils through experimentation

1 by city and parish school boards by authorizing the creation of innovative kinds of
 2 independent public **charter** schools for students. Further, it is the intention of the
 3 legislature to provide a framework **of operational autonomy for such schools** for
 4 such experimentation by the creation of such schools, a means for all persons with
 5 valid ideas and motivation to participate, **and a mechanism by which results can**
 6 **be analyzed, considered, and repeated or replicated if appropriate** in the
 7 experiment, and a mechanism by which experiment results can be analyzed, the
 8 positive results repeated or replicated, if appropriate, and the negative results
 9 identified and eliminated. Finally, it is the intention of the legislature that the best
 10 interests of students who are economically disadvantaged shall be the overriding
 11 consideration in implementing the provisions of this Chapter.

12 B.(1) The purposes of this Chapter shall be to **increase school choice options**
 13 **throughout the state and to** provide opportunities for **parents**, educators, and
 14 others interested in educating pupils to form, operate, or be employed within a **an**
 15 **operationally autonomous** charter school with each such school designed to
 16 accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

17 * * *

18 (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods,
 19 **educational models**, and a variety of governance, management, and administrative
 20 structures.

21 * * *

22 §3973. Definitions

23 As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings
 24 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

25 (1) ~~Repealed by Acts 2017, No. 136, §2, eff. August 1, 2017.~~ **"Autonomy"**
 26 **means that unless mutually agreed upon by the chartering authority and**
 27 **charter school, or otherwise required or prohibited by law, the charter school**
 28 **shall have independent operational decision making authority in the areas**
 29 **including but not limited to:**

30 **(a) School programming, instruction, curriculum, materials, texts,**

1 calendars, and schedules.

2 (b) Personnel, employment, salaries and benefits, educator certification
3 and evaluation, performance management, participation in retirement
4 planning, and collective bargaining.

5 (c) Budgeting, purchasing, procurement, contracts, food service, and
6 management of transportation.

7 * * *

8 §3983. Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental
9 approval

10 A.(1) * * *

11 (2)(a)(i) Each proposal for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school shall first be
12 made to the local school board with jurisdiction where the school is to be located,
13 except as provided for in Item (ii) or (iii) of this Subparagraph, by submitting a
14 written proposal. The applicant shall also provide notice of application
15 submission for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school to the state Department of
16 Education. If, after review as required by R.S. 17:3982, the local school board
17 denies the proposal, or if conditions placed on the proposal by the local school board,
18 as provided in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section, are not acceptable to the chartering
19 group, then a proposal for a Type 2 charter school may be made to the state board.

20 * * *

21 §3991. Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation;
22 board membership

23 * * *

24 C. A charter school shall:

25 * * *

26 (7) Have the autonomy necessary to manage its educational
27 programming and daily operations in accordance with law, policy, and contract.

28 * * *

29 Section 2. 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.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____