

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 281 (HB 28)

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Existing law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish an appeals process through which applicants who have been denied certification may appeal the denial to the Teacher Certification Appeals Council. Requires the council to evaluate the appeals and submit a written report of findings to BESE.

Existing law provides that a decision of the council is a final decision. New law adds an exception by providing that BESE may override the council's denial of an appellant's appeal if the denial was based on circumstances beyond the appellant's control as determined by BESE; provides, however, that BESE shall not override a denial by the council if it determines that the certification of the appellant would conflict with existing law or federal law.

New law authorizes BESE to call a special meeting to consider overriding a denial of the council and authorizes BESE to delegate the authority to override a denial to the BESE president. Provides that if an appellant submits a request for BESE to override a denial, either BESE or the BESE president shall render a decision within 30 days of receipt.

New law provides that BESE's authority to override the council's denial of appeals as provided in new law shall have both prospective application and retroactive application to denials issued by the council between Jan. 1, 2025, and August 1, 2026.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:8.8(E))