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HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Wesley Bishop to Engrossed House Bill No. 976 by Representative Carter

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, at the end of line 6, between "17:10.5(F)" and the comma "," insert "and (G)"

3 AMENDMENT NO. 2

4 On page 1, line 17, after "transferred to" and before "the" insert "or removed from the
5 jurisdiction of"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 3

7 On page 2, line 28, after "R.S." and before "3973(2)(b)(vi)," change "17:10.5(F)," to
8 "17:10.5(F) and (G),"

9 AMENDMENT NO. 4

10 On page 4, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

11 "G.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section,
12 a public school or public charter school shall be removed from the jurisdiction of the
13 Recovery School District and returned to the administration and management of the
14 school system from which it was transferred if such return is approved by the State
15 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and both of the following conditions
16 are met:

17 (a) Parents or legal guardians representing at least fifty-one percent of the
18 students attending the school sign a petition requesting that the school be removed
19 from the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District and returned to the
20 administration and management of the school system from which it was transferred.

21 (b) The school has received a letter grade of "F" or any variation thereof,
22 pursuant to the Louisiana School and District Accountability System for three
23 consecutive years.

24 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop
25 and adopt rules and regulations for implementation of this Subsection which shall
26 include but not be limited to:

27 (a) The format and procedures for submitting a petition pursuant to this
28 Paragraph to the state superintendent of education to be brought by him before the
29 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for review, consideration, and
30 action.

31 (b) A requirement that each student may be signed for by his parents or legal
32 guardians only one time on any given petition such that each student equals one
33 signature.

34 (c) Signature validation procedures that include the following requirements:

35 (i) That upon submission of a petition, the state Department of Education
36 shall determine if the number of signatures represents at least fifty-one percent of the
37 students attending the school.

38 (ii) That the signatures be assumed valid unless challenged or there is
39 reasonable doubt of their validity. If validity is challenged or doubted, the

1 department shall, within forty-five calendar days, review and verify the signatures.
2 If the department finds that the number of valid signatures is fewer than the fifty-one
3 percent required, parents or legal guardians shall have thirty calendar days,
4 commencing with a date specified by the department, to resolve such discrepancies
5 and collect the signatures of additional parents or legal guardians. Signatures shall
6 not be discounted over technicalities if the clear intent of the parent or legal guardian
7 was to support the petition.

8 (d) Transfer procedures for students who choose not to remain enrolled at
9 the school as a result of the state board's decision to return the school to the
10 administration and management of the school system from which it was transferred.

11 (3) The state Department of Education shall maintain records regarding the
12 contents and outcomes of the petitions.

13 (4) Parents or legal guardians shall be free from harassment, threats, and
14 intimidation related to circulation of or signing a petition.

15 (5) School and district resources shall not be used to support or oppose any
16 effort by petitioning parents or legal guardians to gather signatures and submit a
17 petition."