
DIGEST

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Henry

HB No. 615

Abstract: Provides conditions for the approval of certain charter school proposals and provides relative to prohibitions on employing a certain percentage of nonimmigrant foreign workers in charter schools, with exceptions.

Present law, relative to charter schools, permits the formation of nonprofit corporations (by teachers, citizens, public service organizations, businesses, and others) to propose charters. Requires that a group submitting a proposal include at least three La. certified teachers. Provides for the chartering process, including submitting, reviewing, and approving proposals. Permits charter school governing authorities to employ faculty and staff it deems necessary. Provides that the nonprofit organization shall have exclusive authority over all employment decisions at the charter schools. Permits the nonprofit organization to enter into a contract with a for-profit organization to manage the charter school and to delegate authority over employment decisions to the for-profit organization. Provides, with certain exceptions, that charter school employees shall be considered public school employees and shall be eligible for all benefits provided to public school employees including membership in the state retirement systems.

Proposed law retains present law except provides that:

- (1) A charter authorizer shall not approve a proposal for a new charter school if the proposal includes plans to staff positions at the school with nonimmigrant foreign workers in excess of 3-1/2% of the total number of positions at any single school location for any school year, unless the group submitting the proposal has received written recommendations from the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana or any other board or commission created by the legislature and dedicated to promoting a foreign language in La.
- (2) The governing authority of a charter school shall not staff positions with nonimmigrant foreign workers in excess of 3-1/2% of the total number of positions at any single school location for any school year unless the group submitting the proposal has received written recommendations from the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana or any other board or commission created by the legislature and dedicated to promoting a foreign language in Louisiana.
- (3) A nonprofit organization may enter into a contract with a for-profit organization to manage the charter school and have authority over employment decisions only if the for-profit organization meets the staffing requirements in proposed law.

Defines "nonimmigrant foreign worker" as an individual who has a visa pursuant to certain provisions of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

Proposed law adds that no proposal for a new charter school submitted pursuant to present law (by teachers, citizens, public service organizations, and businesses) shall be approved unless each member of the group submitting the proposal is a U.S citizen or the group has received written recommendations from the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana or any other board or commission created by the legislature and dedicated to promoting a foreign language in Louisiana.

Present law, relative to the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, provides for council duties, powers, and functions including cooperating with public institutions of education and other state agencies. Proposed law adds that the council may give written recommendations for a charter school proposal to charter a French immersion curriculum charter school and to review and make recommendations for any French immersion educational curriculum including a French immersion curriculum charter school.

(Amends R.S. 17:3973(6) and (7) and 3997(A)(1)(a) and (b); Adds R.S. 17:3973(8), 3983(A)(5) and (G), and 3997(G) and R.S. 25:653(E)(3))