
DIGEST

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James

HB No. 115

Abstract: Allows parents to submit petitions to BESE for the return to the local school system of certain schools that were transferred to the RSD.

Present law (R.S. 17:10.5) provides for the transfer to the Recovery School District (RSD), subject to approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), of schools that have been labeled academically unacceptable for four consecutive years or failed schools for which the local school board has failed to present or implement an acceptable reconstitution plan under the school accountability program. Provides that the RSD shall retain jurisdiction of any school transferred to it for not less than five school years. Requires the RSD to report to BESE at least nine months prior to the expiration of the transfer period as to whether the school should continue in the RSD under certain conditions, close, or be returned to the transferring school system. Provides that the RSD shall retain the school for an additional five-year period upon BESE approval unless a lesser time is adopted by BESE.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that parents of students attending a school in the RSD that is directly operated by the RSD and has not been identified for conversion to a charter school pursuant to a charter contract between BESE and a non-profit charter organization and had a letter grade of "D" or "F" for five consecutive years while in the RSD may submit a petition to BESE requesting that the school be returned to the local school system from which it was transferred. Requires approval of BESE and the respective local school board for such transfer to occur. Requires signatures of parents representing at least a majority of the students attending the school. Requires BESE to adopt rules and regulations for implementation of the petition process, including a petition format and submission process, signature validation procedures, timelines, and student transfer procedures. Prohibits the use of local school and school district resources to support or oppose any effort by parents to gather signatures or sign petitions.

(Adds R.S. 17:10.5(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Adds a condition that to be eligible for return, a school shall be directly operated by the RSD and not identified for conversion to a charter school.
2. Adds that in addition to BESE approval, a transfer requires the approval of the

respective local school board.

3. Requires that a school must have had a letter grade of "D" or "F" for five consecutive years while in the RSD instead of for three consecutive years.
4. Adds requirement that BESE rules and regulations include time lines for submitting petitions.