

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 115 by Representative James

SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: Provides for parent petitions relative to the transfer of certain schools from the Recovery School District back to the local school system

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Relative to the requirement for signatures of parents as a condition for the school transfer to occur, requires signatures of parents of at least a majority of the students who have been enrolled in the school for at least two years instead of students attending the school.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 who have been enrolled in the school for at least two years. 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))