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The legislative instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Senate Bill No. 205 by Senator LaFleur

**Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

SCHOOLS. Provides for establishment of foreign language immersion programs in public school districts. (8/1/13)

**Report adopts House amendments to:**

1. Delete proposed law repeal of the Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act.
2. Make technical corrections.

**Report rejects House amendments which would have:**

1. No House amendments are rejected.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Provide that a school system shall not be required to establish a foreign language immersion program unless the level of MFP funds provided to school systems for salary supplements for foreign language teachers is equal to or greater than the funds provided for such purpose for FY 2011-12.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

Proposed law creates the "Immersion School Choice Act" and provides as follows:

- (1) Authorizes a local public school board to establish a foreign language immersion program in any school under its jurisdiction that shall be open to the enrollment of any student who resides within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district.
- (2) Provides that, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a local public school board, if requested in writing signed by the parent or legal guardian of at least 25 students enrolled in kindergarten who reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district, shall establish a foreign language immersion program for such students, provided:

- (a) The parent or legal guardian of each student commits, in writing, that the student will participate in the program.
  - (b) The requisite number of signatures are submitted to the local school board not later than March first prior to the school year in which the program is to be established.
  - (c) The MFP formula provides funding to local school systems employing foreign language teachers to provide salary supplements for such teachers at a level equal to or greater than the level of funding provided for this purpose through such formula for the 2011-12 fiscal year.
  - (d) A sufficient number of foreign language teachers, with the required credentials as prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) are available through programs administered by the Dept. of Education and the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana to establish the program.
  - (e) There is no existing foreign language immersion program offered by the local school board that has been certified by BESE.
- (3) Provides that such program shall be continued as long as at least 20 students remain enrolled in the program.
- (4) Requires the local school board to ensure that any foreign language immersion program created pursuant to proposed law is designated as a Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program in accordance with applicable law and is established within three years from the date of such program.
- (5) Provides that a local school board shall not be required to provide transportation to any student enrolled in a foreign language immersion program established that is located outside the attendance zone of the school the student would otherwise attend if providing such transportation would result in additional transportation costs to the school system.

(Adds R.S. 17:273.3)