

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 407

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARTER, SMITH, and KATRINA JACKSON

STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: Provides relative to eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school and prohibits the denial of admission or readmission based on certain characteristics

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221(B), relative to school attendance; to provide relative to
3 eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school; to prohibit city,
4 parish, and other local public school boards from denying admission or readmission
5 based on certain characteristics; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:221(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §221. School attendance; compulsory ages; duty of parents; excessive absences;
9 condition for driving privileges

10 * * *

11 B.(1) ~~No A~~ city, parish, or other local public school board shall ~~deny grant~~
12 admission or readmission to school ~~of to~~ any ~~student of suitable age who resides~~
13 ~~within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally~~
14 ~~excluded from attending school:~~ person who meets all of the following criteria:

15 (a) Resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system.

16 (b) Meets the eligibility requirements for school entrance pursuant to R.S.
17 17:222(A).

18 (c) Is twenty years of age or younger on September thirtieth of the calendar
19 year in which the school year begins.

20 (d) Has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

- (2) Meets the eligibility requirements for school entrance pursuant to present law, which requires that a child be six by Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins in order to enter the first grade of any public school.
- (3) Is 20 or younger on Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins.
- (4) Has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (5) Is otherwise eligible for enrollment in a public school pursuant to present law and the policies of the local public school board and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Proposed law prohibits school boards from denying admission or readmission to a person if he:

- (1) Withdrew from school.
- (2) Is pregnant.
- (3) Is a parent.
- (4) Is married.

Proposed law requires that the admission or readmission of a person who is 20 be limited to grade 12.

Proposed law further provides that the admission or readmission of any person who has been suspended or expelled from a La. public school is subject to all laws and policies applicable to such disciplinary actions.

(Amends R.S. 17:221(B))