

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 345

BY SENATOR CROWE

FUNDS/FUNDING. Dedicates certain Deepwater Horizon oil spill fines to provide public elementary and secondary schools with full wireless digital technology capabilities for the classroom. (7/1/14)

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:354(A) and to enact R.S. 17:354(C), relative to the Academic  
3 Improvement Fund; to provide for the deposit of certain monies into the fund from  
4 the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; to provide for the creation of the School Technology  
5 Improvement Account; to provide for the transfer of monies in the fund to the  
6 account; to provide for the use of monies in the School Technology Improvement  
7 Account; to provide for the creation of the School Technology Steering Committee;  
8 to provide for the membership of the School Technology Steering Committee; to  
9 provide for the duties and responsibilities of the School Technology Steering  
10 Committee; to provide for the distribution of monies in the School Technology  
11 Improvement Account; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
12 matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:354(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:354(C) is  
15 hereby enacted to read as follows:

16 §354. Academic Improvement Fund; creation; purpose; uses

17 A.(1) The "Academic Improvement Fund", hereinafter referred to as the

1 "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury. The source of monies deposited  
2 into the fund shall be legislative appropriation. Monies in the fund shall be subject  
3 to appropriation by the legislature and shall be available exclusively for programs  
4 which provide opportunities to students to acquire the skills to achieve academic  
5 success and become employable, productive, and responsible citizens.

6 **(2) There is hereby created in the Academic Improvement Fund an**  
7 **account to be known as the School Technology Improvement Account,**  
8 **hereinafter referred to as the "account".**

9 **(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 49:214.5.4(I), the treasurer is**  
10 **hereby authorized and directed to deposit into the Academic Improvement**  
11 **Fund the first three hundred million dollars from any monies received by the**  
12 **state for violations pursuant to Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution**  
13 **Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321; R.S. 30:2025(E)(1) and (2); and R.S. 30:2001 et**  
14 **seq., including R.S. 30:2071 et seq., associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil**  
15 **spill that began on April 20, 2010. Any monies in the fund received from the**  
16 **Deepwater Horizon oil spill shall be transferred to the School Technology**  
17 **Improvement Account to ensure that all public elementary and secondary**  
18 **schools achieve full wireless digital capabilities, as provided in Subsection (C)**  
19 **of this Section.**

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21 **C.(1) Monies in the School Technology Improvement Account shall be**  
22 **annually appropriated by the legislature for expenditure as further provided in**  
23 **this Subsection exclusively for the purposes of ensuring that all public**  
24 **elementary and secondary schools in the state have full wireless digital**  
25 **capabilities, including but not limited to the purchase and installation of any**  
26 **computers, servers, routers, equipment, hardware, software, broadband access**  
27 **through wide area networks (WANs) and local area networks (LANs), and other**  
28 **required technology, as may be necessary based on the most recent edition of**  
29 **the Local Education Authorities (LEA) Technology Readiness Assessments of**

1 the Louisiana Department of Education. Such improvements should follow the  
2 technology footprint that charts individual public school districts' readiness;  
3 school-by-school analysis to determine how each school stands relative to digital  
4 readiness; and assessment of technology acquisition support including  
5 discounted technology contracts available to all schools or e-rate application  
6 support for all districts.

7 (2) To implement these provisions the School Technology Steering  
8 Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "committee" shall be formed within  
9 thirty days after the date of initial deposit of monies into the account. The  
10 committee shall consist of the following members:

11 (a) One member of the Louisiana Senate, selected by the president.

12 (b) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, selected by  
13 the speaker.

14 (c) The chief information officer for the Louisiana Department of  
15 Education, or his designee.

16 (d) The chief technology advisor from the Louisiana Optical Network  
17 Initiative (LONI) Management Council, or his designee.

18 (e) The chief information officer (CIO) for the Division of  
19 Administration, or his designee.

20 (f) One representative with information technology expertise from each  
21 of the eight districts of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
22 (BESE); such representatives shall be selected by the governor from a list of  
23 three candidates recommended from each district by the Louisiana Association  
24 of School Superintendents.

25 (3) The committee shall be staffed by the employees of the Louisiana  
26 Department of Education responsible for the publication of the Local Education  
27 Authorities (LEA) Technology Readiness Assessments.

28 (4) Within sixty days of the date of initial deposit of monies into the  
29 account, the committee shall meet to organize and shall elect from its

1 membership a chairman. The committee shall meet as often thereafter as  
2 deemed necessary by the chairman. Members shall serve without salary, per  
3 diem, or any other expenses.

4 (a) At its first meeting the committee shall begin to develop a needs  
5 analysis, implementation timetable, and funding allocation plan that will ensure  
6 each public elementary and secondary school has available all necessary digital  
7 technology to achieve and to maintain full wireless digital capabilities in terms  
8 of device readiness across all schools and all districts with respect to internet  
9 capacity, and with respect to network capabilities.

10 (b) The committee shall prepare a report comprising the analysis, the  
11 implementation timetable, and the funding allocation plan within six months  
12 after the date of its first meeting. Each year the report shall be updated to  
13 reflect changes in the implementation timetable and the funding allocation plan.

14 (5) Each year the finished report shall then be submitted to the Senate  
15 Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education meeting  
16 separately or jointly for review.

17 (6) Annually, the monies appropriated pursuant to these provisions will  
18 be distributed upon approval of the report by the Joint Legislative Committee  
19 on the Budget and the funding allocation plan submitted by the School  
20 Technology Steering Committee.

21 (7) The School Technology Steering Committee shall be abolished and  
22 cease to exist after the total three hundred million dollars has been deposited  
23 into the fund and distributed to the public elementary and postsecondary  
24 schools of the state to achieve the purposes set out in this Subsection.

25 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014. If vetoed by the governor  
26 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
27 2014, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jay R Lueckel.

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DIGEST

Crowe (SB 345)

Present law provides for the creation, purpose, and uses of the Academic Improvement Fund. Proposed law retains present law and further provides for the creation of the School Technology Improvement Account and for the deposit of three hundred million dollars from any monies received by the state for violations associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill event into the account to be used to ensure full wi-fi compliance for all public schools within the state.

Proposed law provides that monies in the School Technology Improvement Account shall be appropriated for the purposes of ensuring that all public elementary and secondary schools in the state have full wireless digital capabilities, including but not limited to the purchase and installation of any computers, servers, routers, equipment, hardware, software, and other required technology, as may be necessary based on the most recent edition of the Local Education Authorities (LEA) Technology Readiness Assessments. Proposed law provides that such improvements should follow the technology footprint charted for individual public elementary and secondary school districts relative to district readiness, school-by-school readiness, and technology acquisition support assessment.

Proposed law provides that to implement these provisions the School Technology Steering Committee shall be formed within thirty days after the date of initial deposit of monies into the account. The committee shall consist of the following members:

- (1) One member of the Louisiana Senate, selected by the president.
- (2) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, selected by the speaker.
- (3) The chief information officer for the Louisiana Department of Education, or his designee.
- (4) The chief technology advisor from the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council, or his designee.
- (5) The chief information officer for the Division of Administration, or his designee.
- (6) One representative with information technology expertise from each of the eight districts of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and such representatives shall be selected by the governor from a list of three candidates recommended from each district by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

Proposed law provides that the committee shall be staffed by the employees of the Louisiana Department of Education responsible for the publication of the Local Education Authorities (LEA) Technology Readiness Assessments.

Proposed law provides that within sixty days of the date of initial deposit of monies into the account, the committee shall meet to organize and shall elect from its membership a chairman. The committee shall meet as often thereafter as deemed necessary by the chairman. Members shall serve without salary, per diem, or any other expenses.

Proposed law provides that the committee shall begin to develop a needs analysis, an implementation timetable, and funding allocation plan that will ensure each public elementary and secondary school has available all necessary digital technology to achieve

and to maintain full wireless digital capabilities, including an accounting of all funding necessary to accomplish these objectives.

Proposed law provides that the committee shall prepare a report comprising the analysis, the implementation timetable, and the funding allocation plan within six months after the date of its first meeting. Each year the report shall be updated to reflect changes in the implementation timetable and the funding allocation plan.

Proposed law provides that each year the finished report shall then be submitted to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education meeting separately or jointly for its review.

Proposed law further provides that monies appropriated each year will be distributed upon approval by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget of the report and the funding allocation plan submitted by the School Technology Steering Committee.

Proposed law provides that the School Technology Steering Committee shall be abolished and cease to exist after the total three hundred million dollars has been deposited into the fund and distributed to the public elementary and postsecondary schools of the state to achieve the purposes set out in this Subsection.

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:354(A) and adds 17:354(C))