
DIGEST

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Leger

HB No. 941

Abstract: Provides for the dedication of \$775 per pupil attending schools owned by the school board of certain school districts to various funds and purposes related to the preservation and improvement of school facilities.

Proposed law provides for the dedication of \$775 per pupil attending schools owned by the school board of certain school districts to various funds and purposes related to the preservation and improvement of school facilities. Proposed law applies to school districts where schools have been transferred to the Recovery School District (RSD), pursuant to specified present law.

Provides that such funds shall first be used for existing debt service until current debts are retired. Prohibits the school board from refinancing such debt.

Provides for the allocation and use of the funds derived from the \$775 per pupil calculation and remaining after such debt payments are made; such funds are referred to as "facility funds".

Requires the school board to transfer to the RSD a proportion of facility funds based on the proportion of students in school buildings it controls.

Requires both the school board and the RSD to do all of the following:

- (1) Create a facilities office. Proposed law specifies amounts of facility funds that shall be used to fund the facilities offices. Provides that the office is responsible for managing building leases and administering the programs established by proposed law. Authorizes the office to offer additional facilities services to charter schools and charge fees for such services pursuant to a written agreement.
- (2) Establish an emergency repair account. Proposed law specifies amounts of facility funds that shall be deposited into such account. Requires that money in the account be used to pay for emergency repairs, replacements, or contingency preparations up to a prescribed per incident maximum. Requires policies governing the expenditure of money in the account.
- (3) Establish a planned capital replacements account. Proposed law requires the deposit of all remaining facility funds received into this account. Money in this account is to be used for planned, large-scale, capital campus repairs or replacement to permanent facilities including preemptive replacement of major building components. Requires

approval of each expenditure of money in this accounts by a two-thirds vote of the school board or BESE, as applicable.

- (4) Establish a facility capital improvement financing process. Proposed law provides that a charter school may be credited up to \$5,000 per pupil for making improvements to its campus. Provides conditions on receipt of such credits and provides relative to the amount of facility funds that is to be used for this purpose.

Proposed law requires the school board and the RSD to have written agreements with each charter school occupying a campus it controls, which agreements shall specify terms such as the right for the school board or RSD to inspect and monitor the campus; requirements for maintenance and inspection; procedures for addressing noncompliance with facilities requirements.

(Adds R.S. 17:100.11)