
DIGEST

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Schroder

HB No. 1011

Abstract: Relative to schools, provides for the definition of a school for purposes of the general school law, changes certain references to private schools, provides relative to the reporting of data, and provides relative to diplomas issued by nonpublic schools and home study programs.

Present law (R.S. 17:11(C)) provides that all certificates and diplomas issued by an approved private school shall carry the same privileges as those issued by a state public school.

Proposed law provides instead that all certificates and diplomas issued by an approved nonpublic school shall be equivalent to those issued by a state public school.

Present law R.S. 17:222(B)(1)) requires children entering a public or private school for the first time to present a copy of their official birth record.

Proposed law retains present law except makes it applicable to an approved nonpublic school instead of a private school.

Present law (R.S. 17:236(A)), relative to the definition of a school for purposes of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the La. Revised Statutes (General School Law), provides that a "school" is an institution for the teaching of children, consisting of an adequate physical plant, whether owned or leased, instructional staff members, and students.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that for such an institution to be classified as a school, instructional staff members shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) A public day school or a nonpublic school which receives local, state, or federal funds or support, directly or indirectly – staff members must be certified in accordance with State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rules
- (2) A nonpublic school which receives no local, state, or federal funds or support, directly or indirectly – staff members must meet requirements prescribed by the school or the church.

Proposed law changes applicability of present law and makes requirement that staff members be

certified in accordance with BESE rules applicable to a public day school or an approved nonpublic school and makes requirement that staff members meet requirements of the school or church applicable to a nonapproved, registered nonpublic school.

Present law further requires that to be classified as a school the institution must operate a minimum session of not less than 180 days.

Proposed law excepts nonapproved, registered nonpublic schools from this requirement by making it applicable only to public and approved nonpublic schools.

Proposed law provides that a local school board may use drop code for accountability for a student who transfers from a public school to a home study program, and that a letter from the student's parent concerning such transfer shall be sufficient documentation to do so.

Present law (R.S. 17:236(B)) made the required operation of a minimum school session of not less than 180 days inapplicable to the 2005-2006 school year and authorized BESE to adopt rules for that school year relative to the minimum session required for an institution to be classified as a school.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:236(C)) for the purpose of reporting data, defines the terms "elementary school", "middle school" or "junior high school", and "high school".

Proposed law makes this provision applicable only to collection of public school data.

Present law (R.S. 17:236.1) provides relative to the approval of home study programs by BESE and procedures and requirements for such approval.

Proposed law retains present law except to specify that approval of home study programs by BESE is not required.

Present law provides that a high school diploma awarded by a BESE approved home study program shall be deemed by all public postsecondary educational institutions, all state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions, and all other state and local governmental entities to have all of the rights and privileges afforded to a high school diploma awarded by a state-approved nonpublic school. (R.S. 17:11(C) provides that diplomas of approved private schools carry the same privileges as those of state public schools. See change in this Section at the beginning of this digest.)

Proposed law retains present law except provides that such diplomas shall be deemed to be the equivalent of a diploma awarded by a state-approved nonpublic school, instead of deemed to have all the rights and privileges afforded approved nonpublic school diplomas.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:11(C), 222(B)(1), 236(A) and (C)(introductory paragraph), and 236.1; repeals R.S. 17:236(B))