

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).



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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Carter

HB No. 407

**Abstract:** Provides eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school and prohibits a school board from denying admission or readmission based on certain characteristics.

Present law prohibits a public school board from denying admission or readmission to school to any student of suitable age who resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally excluded from attending school.

Proposed law requires a public school board to grant admission or readmission to school to any person who meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system.
- (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 19 or younger on Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins or is 20 on Sept 30 and has sufficient credit to graduate within a year.
- (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 and that the admission or readmission of a person with an exceptionality is subject to federal and state law governing the age of eligibility for services for students with exceptionalities.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Adds provision relative to applicability of federal and state law to the admission or readmission of a person with an exceptionality.
2. Adds the course credit condition on the requirement for admission of 20 year olds.