

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Senate Bill No. 61 By Senator Nevers

June 1, 2014

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 61 by Senator Nevers, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That House Committee Amendment No. 1 proposed by the house Committee on Education and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 15, 2014 be rejected.
2. That House Floor Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 proposed by Representative Ivey and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 28, 2014, be rejected.
3. That House Floor Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3 proposed by Representative Thompson and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 28, 2014, be rejected.
4. That the following amendments to the engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, at the beginning of line 24, change "E." to "E.(1)"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, line 26, between "Section" and the period "." insert "**and shall adopt a policy to govern student transfers authorized by this Section**"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, between lines 26 and 27, insert the following:

"(2) Any student transfer pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall comply with the policy adopted by the governing authority of the school in which the student seeks to enroll.

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

Senator Ben Nevers

Representative Stephen F. Carter

Senator Conrad Appel

Representative Chris Broadwater

Senator Mack "Bodi" White, Jr.

Representative John Bel Edwards

The legislative instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Senate Bill No. 61 by Senator Nevers

Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides for the Louisiana Public School Choice Act.
(gov sig)

Report rejects House amendments which would have:

1. Required student enrollment outside school system of residence be approved by a majority vote of the school board of the receiving school system.
2. Allowed the school system in which the student resides to charge the student a fee up to the amount of the local portion of the per-pupil amount established for the home school system in the MFP, if the student enrolls in a public school outside the boundaries of the school system in which he resides.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Require each public school governing authority to adopt a policy to govern student transfers between public schools and school systems.
2. Provide that each student transfer pursuant to proposed law shall comply with the policy adopted by the governing authority of the school in which the student seeks to enroll.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Proposed law provides for public school choice as follows:

- (1) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the parent or other legal guardian of any student may enroll their child in the public school of their choice, without regard to residence, school system geographic boundaries, or attendance zones, provided both of the following apply:
 - (a) The public school in which the student was most recently enrolled, or would otherwise attend, received a school performance letter grade of "D" or "F" for the most recent school year.
 - (b) The school in which the student seeks to enroll received a school performance letter grade of "A", "B", or "C" for the most recent school year, and has sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade level.
- (2) Provides that the authority provided by proposed law to enroll a student in the public school of choice shall not be permitted and shall not be exercised, if doing so violates the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (3) Provides that notwithstanding the provisions of present law, a school system shall not be required to provide transportation to any student enrolled in a public school pursuant to proposed law that is located outside of the geographic boundaries of the school system in which he resides, if it will result in additional cost to the school system.

- (4) Provides that a student enrolled in a public school pursuant to proposed law shall be counted by the school system in which he is enrolled for purposes of the Minimum Foundation Program and formula, and any other available state or federal funding for which the student is eligible.
- (5) Requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to work collaboratively and cooperatively to ensure compliance with proposed law and shall adopt a policy to govern student transfers authorized by proposed law.
- (6) Provides that any student transfer pursuant to the provisions of proposed law shall comply with the policy adopted by the governing authority of the school in which the student seeks to enroll.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:4035 and 4035.1)