

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 330

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Provides relative to eligibility requirements for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4021(C), to enact R.S. 17:4021(D), and to repeal R.S.
3 17:4021(A)(3), relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence
4 Program; to provide with respect to nonpublic school eligibility requirements for
5 participation in such program; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:4021(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:4021(D)
9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §4021. School eligibility; conditions; exceptions

11 * * *

12 C.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, enrollment of
13 scholarship recipients in a nonpublic participating school that has been approved,
14 provisionally approved, or probationally approved for less than two years shall not
15 exceed twenty percent of such school's total student enrollment.

16 (2) Enrollment of scholarship recipients in a nonpublic participating school
17 that has been approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved for less
18 than two years may exceed twenty percent of the school's total student enrollment
19 if the department determines that the governing authority of the school has
20 demonstrated a proven record of successful operation as defined by the department

1 and the governing authority receives a positive recommendation pursuant to an
 2 independent evaluation of the governing authority's operations by a third party
 3 selected by the department with educational, organizational, legal, and financial
 4 expertise.

5 D. Scholarship recipients enrolled in a participating school that fails to meet
 6 the eligibility criteria established in this Section may transfer to another participating
 7 school for the succeeding school year without loss of eligibility, and such recipients
 8 shall be given preference for enrollment at other participating schools.

9 Section 2. R.S. 17:4021(A)(3) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

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)]

HB 330 Original

2015 Regular Session

Badon

Abstract: Provides for exceptions relative to nonpublic school eligibility requirements for the voucher program.

Present law provides for the Student Scholarships for Excellence Program (voucher program). Provides that to be eligible to participate in the program, a nonpublic school shall meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Be approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) pursuant to present law, R.S. 17:11.
- (2) Comply with the criteria set forth in *Brumfield, et al. v. Dodd, et al.* 425 F. Supp. 528.
- (3) Enrollment of scholarship recipients in a participating school that has been approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved for less than two years shall not exceed 20% of such school's total enrollment.

Proposed law provides that enrollment of scholarship recipients in a nonpublic participating school that has been approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved for less than two years may exceed 20% of the school's total student enrollment if the department determines that the governing authority of the school has demonstrated a proven record of successful operation and receives a positive recommendation pursuant to an independent evaluation of the governing authority's operations by a third party. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:4021(C); Adds R.S. 17:4021(D); Repeals R.S. 17:4021(A)(3))