

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 20

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRICE

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

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to exemptions from the requirements for school instructional time under certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:154.1(A)(6), relative to minimum requirements for instructional time for  
3 students in public schools; to provide for applicability of such requirements under  
4 certain circumstances; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:154.1(A)(6) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §154.1. Length of school day and year; requirements

8 A.

9 \* \* \*

10 (6)(a) Effective for the 2016-2017 school year and thereafter, the provisions  
11 of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to any city, parish, or other public  
12 school that cannot meet those requirements because the school temporarily shared  
13 facilities with another school due to damages caused by a natural catastrophe or  
14 disaster that was declared by the governor pursuant to R.S. 29:724 and that was  
15 certified by the state superintendent of education and approved by the State Board  
16 of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this  
17 Paragraph. The state board may require that the school provide a minimum number  
18 of daily instructional minutes that is less than the requirements set forth in Paragraph  
19 (1) of this Subsection and provide other requirements it deems necessary to support  
20 student learning.

1           (b) Such certification by the superintendent and approval by the board shall  
2           be in accordance with criteria established pursuant to rules and regulations adopted  
3           by the board for such purpose in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.  
4           Such rules and regulations shall include but not be limited to a requirement that any  
5           such school not able to meet the requirements of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection  
6           shall submit to the state superintendent of education for approval, in accordance with  
7           time lines established by the state board, documented information explaining why  
8           the school could not meet such requirements, any efforts made by the school toward  
9           meeting the requirements, and a revised school calendar for the affected school year.

\* \* \*

11           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
12 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
13 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
14 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
15 effective on the day following such approval.

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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HB 20 Original	2017 Regular Session	Price
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**Abstract:** Provides relative to the applicability of the minimum requirements for instructional time to schools that cannot meet such requirements because the school temporarily shared facilities with another school due to damages caused by a natural catastrophe or disaster.

Present law (R.S. 17:154.1(A)(1)) provides that the minimum school day for grades one through 12 in every public school shall consist of 360 minutes of instructional time and the minimum school year shall consist of 177 days of instruction. Authorizes school governing authorities to modify the total number of instructional minutes per day and instructional days per year under certain conditions, provided the minimum total instructional minutes for the year is not changed.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that, effective for the 2016-2017 school year and thereafter, present law requirements relative to instructional time shall not be applicable to any public school that cannot meet such requirements because the school temporarily shared facilities with another school due to damages caused by a natural catastrophe or disaster that was declared by the governor pursuant to present law and that was certified by the state superintendent of education and approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Authorizes BESE to require that the school provide a minimum number

of daily instructional minutes that is less than present law requirements. Requires that any such school not able to meet present law requirements submit to the state superintendent documented information explaining why the school could not meet such requirements, any efforts made by the school toward meeting the requirements, and a revised school calendar for the affected school year.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:154.1(A)(6))