

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

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

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and local public school boards to send certain information relative to independent evaluations of charter proposals to charter applicants

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i), relative to charter school
3 proposals; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and
4 local public school boards to deliver to charter applicants certain information relative
5 to third-party evaluations of charter proposals; to provide requirements with regard
6 to such delivery; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 to read as follows:

10 §3981. State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; powers and duties
11 relative to charter schools

12 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

13 * * *

14 (4) Review each proposed charter in a timely manner and determine whether
15 each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is
16 valid, complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, whether it provides
17 for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with
18 R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with
19 R.S. 17:3911, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this

1 Chapter. The board shall engage in an application review process that complies with
 2 the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as
 3 promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall
 4 provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with
 5 educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The board shall send to
 6 the charter applicant, either by electronic means or hand delivery, the final
 7 evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party evaluator. Such
 8 information shall be sent no later than five business days prior to the meeting at
 9 which the board will take action on the charter proposal.

10 * * *

11 §3982. Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable
 12 property; sale or lease

13 A.(1)(a)(i) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall
 14 review and formally act upon each charter proposal received within time lines
 15 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that are
 16 consistent with national best practices in charter school authorizing. Such time lines
 17 shall require, at a minimum, an annual charter application process in which local
 18 school boards are afforded at least ninety days to evaluate such applications. In
 19 conducting such review, the local school board shall determine whether each
 20 proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid,
 21 complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, whether it provides
 22 for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with
 23 R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with
 24 R.S. 17:3911, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this
 25 Chapter. The local board shall engage in a transparent application review process
 26 that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School
 27 Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School
 28 Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal
 29 by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The

1 local board shall send to the charter applicant, either by electronic means or hand
2 delivery, the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party
3 evaluator. Such information shall be sent no later than five business days prior to the
4 meeting at which the local board will take action on the charter proposal. Each local
5 board shall use a common charter application developed by the state Department of
6 Education and approved by the state board, but may request additional information
7 from applicants as needed.

8 * * *

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 242 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Emerson

Abstract: Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and local public school boards to send to charter applicants certain information relative to third-party evaluations of charter proposals.

Present law requires BESE and local public school boards to review each charter school proposal submitted in a timely manner and to determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, provides for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline, provides a plan for collecting data, and offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of present law relative to charter schools generally. Requires that the review process comply with the specified national principles and standards.

Present law requires an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise.

Proposed law adds a requirement that BESE and local school boards send to charter applicants the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party evaluator. Requires that such information is sent electronically or hand delivered no later than five business days prior to the meeting at which the board will take action on the charter proposal. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Require BESE and local school boards to send the third-party evaluations and recommendations to the charter applicant by electronic means or hand delivery instead of posting such information on their respective websites.