

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 20

2017 Regular Session

Price

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to exemptions from the requirements for school instructional time under certain circumstances and relative to the applicability of early learning center licensing laws to certain camps

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. The amendments add provisions exempting certain camps serving three- and four-year-olds from early learning center licensing laws.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 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 disaster or emergency 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.

Present law provides for the licensing of early learning centers, defined as any child day care center, Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program not attached to a school. Requires that early learning centers be licensed prior to beginning operations. Provides that camps are exempt from present law and defines "camp" as a place or facility that meets both of these criteria:

- (1) It only operates when school is not in session (summer months or school holidays).
- (2) It only serves children age five and older.

Proposed law lowers this minimum age threshold from age five to age three and otherwise retains present law.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:154.1(A)(6) and 407.33(A)(1))