

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 570

BY REPRESENTATIVE NANCY LANDRY

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Provides relative to charter schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3981(2), (4), and (8) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i), relative to charter  
3 schools; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the State Board of  
4 Elementary and Secondary Education and local school boards, with respect to  
5 reviewing charter proposals; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the state  
6 board with respect to entering into proposed charters, reviewing proposed charter  
7 authorizers, and recruiting chartering groups; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:3981(2), (4), and (8) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i) are hereby amended  
10 and reenacted to read as follows:

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

13 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

14 \* \* \*

15 (2) Enter into any proposed charter that complies with this Chapter and the  
16 rules adopted pursuant to the authority in this Chapter that the board determines is  
17 a valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound proposal that  
18 offers ~~potential~~ a substantial likelihood for fulfilling the purposes of this Chapter.

19 \* \* \*

1           (4) Review each proposed charter in a timely manner and determine whether  
2 each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is  
3 valid, complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, whether it provides  
4 for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with R.S.  
5 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with R.S.  
6 17:3911, and whether it offers ~~potential~~ a substantial likelihood for fulfilling the  
7 purposes of this Chapter. The board shall engage in an application review process  
8 that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School  
9 Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School  
10 Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal  
11 by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The  
12 board shall send to the charter applicant, either by electronic means, or hand  
13 delivery, the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party  
14 evaluator. Such information shall be sent no later than five business days prior to the  
15 meeting at which the board will take action on the charter proposal.

\* \* \*

17           (8) Actively recruit chartering groups that offer a program of study or  
18 propose to offer a program of study that effectively addresses regional workforce  
19 needs, such as career and technical education, industry-based certifications, and  
20 vocational course work, and that offer a substantial likelihood for fulfilling the  
21 purposes of this Chapter.

22 §3982. Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable  
23 property; sale or lease

24 A.(1)(a)(i) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall  
25 review and formally act upon each charter proposal received within time lines  
26 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that are  
27 consistent with national best practices in charter school authorizing. Such time lines  
28 shall require, at a minimum, an annual charter application process in which local  
29 school boards are afforded at least ninety days to evaluate such applications. In

1 conducting such review, the local school board shall determine whether each  
 2 proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid,  
 3 complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, whether it provides  
 4 for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with R.S.  
 5 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with R.S.  
 6 17:3911, and whether it offers ~~potential~~ a substantial likelihood for fulfilling the  
 7 purposes of this Chapter. The local board shall engage in a transparent application  
 8 review process that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality  
 9 Charter School Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter  
 10 School Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter  
 11 proposal by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial  
 12 expertise. The local board shall send to the charter applicant, either by electronic  
 13 means or hand delivery, the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the  
 14 third-party evaluator. Such information shall be sent no later than five business days  
 15 prior to the meeting at which the local board will take action on the charter proposal.  
 16 Each local board shall use a common charter application developed by the state  
 17 Department of Education and approved by the state board, but may request  
 18 additional information from applicants as needed.

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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 570 Original                                      2018 Regular Session                                      Nancy Landry

**Abstract:** Provides relative to considerations the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and local school boards shall make in their review of charter proposals and that BESE shall make in entering into proposed charters and recruiting chartering groups.

Present law provides that its purpose as it pertains to charter schools is to provide opportunities for educators and others interested in educating students to form, operate, or be employed within a charter school designed to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- (1) Improve learning and, in general, the public school system.

- (2) Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education.
- (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods and a variety of governance, management, and administrative structures.
- (4) Require appropriate assessment and measurement of academic learning results.
- (5) Account better and more thoroughly for educational results.
- (6) Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school employees, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.

Present law requires BESE and local school boards, when reviewing a charter proposal and recruiting chartering groups, to consider whether they offer potential for fulfilling these present law purposes. Proposed law requires consideration of whether the charters or groups offer a *substantial likelihood* for fulfilling present law purposes.

(Amends R.S. 17:3981(2), (4), and (8) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i))