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## DIGEST

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HB 306 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Thomas

**Abstract:** Provides that foreign language immersion programs offered in public schools shall mean any type of dual language immersion program. Requires local public school boards to notify parents as to whether or not the required number of written requests was submitted to establish a program.

Present law authorizes a local public school board to establish a foreign language immersion program in any school. Requires a school board to establish a foreign language immersion program if requested in writing by the parents of at least 25 students seeking enrollment in kindergarten or 25 students seeking enrollment in first grade by March 1st prior to the school year in which the program is to be established and if other specified criteria are met. Prohibits school boards from denying enrollment in a foreign language immersion program to any student under specified circumstances.

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to designate a foreign language immersion program that meets specified criteria as a certified program and to promulgate rules to implement such certification process. Requires a school board to ensure that any program established is designated as a certified program in accordance with present law within three years of being established.

Present law requires BESE to include a component in the school and district accountability system for a school that establishes, maintains, or expands a foreign language immersion program or proceeds to earn or maintain certification of a foreign language immersion program. Requires BESE to promulgate rules to implement present law.

Proposed law clarifies that for purposes of present law, "foreign language immersion program" means any type of dual language immersion program. Adds a requirement that school boards notify parents by March 15 as to whether or not the required number of written requests was submitted to establish a program. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(c); Adds R.S. 17:10.1(G)(4), 273.2(D), and 273.3(H))