
DIGEST

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HB 737 Original

2018 Regular Session

Reynolds

Abstract: Relative to the selection of textbooks used in public schools, increases the time period a publisher has to respond to state Dept. of Education (department) comments during the department's evaluation process and provides relative to a local school governing authority's selection of textbooks that are not on the department's approved list.

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a process whereby the department reviews textbooks and other materials of instruction (referred to hereinafter as "textbooks"). Requires the department to review textbooks in English language arts, math, science, and social studies at least every six years and determine the degree to which each aligns with state content standards. Authorizes the department to review textbooks in other subject areas as deemed necessary or upon request of a public school governing authority.

Present law requires the review process for textbooks to be conducted entirely online and specifies required elements of the review process. Among the process requirements is an opportunity for publishers to review any evaluation prior to its posting online. Requires that the publisher be given at least 10 business days to respond and correct the content before the evaluation is posted online. Proposed law retains present law except to increase the time for the publisher to respond and correct content to 30 business days.

Present law requires the department to provide local school governing authorities with a list of reviewed textbooks along with information on how each aligns with state content standards. Provides relative to the responsibilities of local school governing authorities in the selection of textbooks. Present law requires school governing authorities to adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks. Requires that such policies and regulations provide for committees that review textbooks that the department has not reviewed.

Present law provides that present law does not prohibit a school governing authority from acquiring textbooks that are not on the department's list, provided the use of such textbooks does not violate school or school governing authority policy. Proposed law provides instead that the department shall not prohibit a school or governing authority from acquiring books that are not on the department's list; however, such books shall be acquired and used in accordance with present law and with local policy.

(Amends R.S. 17:351.1(B)(3)(d)(ii) and (4)(d))