

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 306

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS AND SENATOR LAFLEUR

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2) and (E)(4), to enact R.S. 17:10.1(G)(4),
3 273.2(D), and 273.3(H), relative to foreign language immersion programs in public
4 schools; to provide that such programs can be any type of dual language immersion
5 program in French or Spanish; to require local public school boards to notify parents
6 or legal guardians of certain determinations with regard to requests to establish a
7 program; to provide relative to the review of program requests, program approval
8 and location, and student enrollment in a program; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2) and (E)(4) are hereby amended and reenacted and
11 R.S. 17:10.1(G)(4), 273.2(D), and 273.3(H) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state
13 board

14 * * *

15 G.

16 * * *

17 (4) For purposes of this Subsection, "foreign language immersion program"
18 means any type of dual language immersion program in French or Spanish.

19 * * *

20 §273.2. Foreign language immersion programs; certification process; criteria

21 * * *

1 D. For purposes of this Section, "foreign language immersion program"
 2 means any type of dual language immersion program in French or Spanish.

3 §273.3. Foreign language immersion programs; creation by local school boards;
 4 parent petition

5 * * *

6 C.

7 * * *

8 (2)(a) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a local school board, if
 9 requested in writing by the parents or legal guardians of at least twenty-five students
 10 seeking to be enrolled in kindergarten or of at least twenty-five students seeking to
 11 be enrolled in first grade who reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the
 12 school district, shall establish a foreign language immersion program for such
 13 students, provided that all of the following apply:

14 (i) The parent or legal guardian of each student commits, in writing, that the
 15 student will participate in the program.

16 (ii) The requisite number of written requests are submitted to the local school
 17 board not later than ~~March first~~ January thirty-first prior to the school year in which
 18 the program is to be established.

19 (iii) The minimum foundation program formula provides funding to local
 20 school systems employing foreign language teachers to provide salary supplements
 21 for such teachers at a level equal to or greater than the level of funding provided for
 22 this purpose through such formula for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

23 (iv) A sufficient number of foreign language teachers with the required
 24 credentials as prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
 25 are available through programs administered by the Department of Education and the
 26 Council for the Development of French in Louisiana to establish the program.

27 (v) There is no existing foreign language immersion program offered by the
 28 local school board, in the same foreign language being proposed, that has been
 29 certified by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S.

30 17:273.2.

1 (b) Such program shall be continued as long as at least twenty students
2 remain enrolled in the program.

3 (c) The local school board shall ensure that any foreign language immersion
4 program established pursuant to this Section is designated as a Certified Foreign
5 Language Immersion Program by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
6 Education in accordance with R.S. 17:273.2 within three years from the date such
7 program is established.

8 (d) The local school board shall review the written requests submitted
9 pursuant to this Paragraph and shall notify the parents or legal guardians not later
10 than February fifteenth of its determination as to whether or not the required number
11 of requests was submitted.

12 (e) The local school board shall inform the parents and legal custodians of
13 all students enrolled in the school system about the existence of any newly
14 established foreign language immersion program and shall permit all eligible
15 students to apply for the program during the designated enrollment period for the
16 school year.

17 (f) The local school board shall consider the location of all students applying
18 for a foreign language immersion program and shall make reasonable attempts to
19 place the program in schools located near the majority of the students who applied.

20 * * *

21 E. A local public school board shall not deny enrollment in a foreign
22 language immersion program to any student if all of the following conditions are
23 met:

24 * * *

25 (4) The student applies for enrollment in such a program by no later than
26 ~~March first~~ April fifteenth of the school year prior to such enrollment.

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1 H. For purposes of this Section, "foreign language immersion program"
2 means any type of dual language immersion program in French or Spanish.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____