
DIGEST

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HB 253 Original

2019 Regular Session

Nancy Landry

Abstract: Requires public disclosure of the giving and receiving of things of economic value by vendors of textbooks and instructional materials and governing authorities of public elementary and secondary schools.

Present law requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks and other instructional materials, including textbooks and other materials that have not been reviewed by the state Dept. of Education.

Present law (the Code of Governmental Ethics) prohibits a public employee or elected official from receiving anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of his duties and responsibilities. Further prohibits a public employee or elected official from accepting any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person if the public employee or elected official knows or reasonably should know that such person has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the public servant's agency.

Proposed law requires a vendor of textbook or instructional material to publically report on any thing of economic value that it has given to any member of the school governing authority, to the school system, to a school governed by the governing authority, or to an organization whose members are primarily La. public schools or La. public school personnel. Requires such reporting at a public meeting of the governing authority held not more than 60 days prior to an action by the school system to adopt, select, or purchase any textbook or instructional material.

Proposed law further requires the school governing authority, at the same meeting, to publically disclose all records pertaining to the receipt of any thing of economic value from the vendor by any member of the governing authority or by any employee of the school system. Requires that the school governing authority post all reports and records disclosed pursuant to proposed law on its website.

(Adds R.S. 17:351.1(C)(6))