

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 792

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

STUDENTS: Provides relative to literacy instruction and reading support services for certain students in grades six through 12

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:182, relative to literacy instruction; to provide for a literacy initiative for
3 public school students in grades six through twelve; to provide for funding through
4 the Education Excellence Fund; to provide for requirements of the state Department
5 of Education; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:182 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §182. School literacy initiative; creation; purpose; procedures

9 A. The school literacy initiative is hereby established in an effort to provide
10 literacy instruction and reading support services to those students who are enrolled
11 in certain grade levels, are above the average age for their grade, and are reading
12 below grade level.

13 B. Each public school governing authority shall:

14 (1) Identify students eligible to receive literacy instruction and reading
15 support services as provided for in Subsection C of this Section. By not later than
16 September thirtieth of each year, or as soon as practicable if a student's reading
17 deficiency is identified after this date, each public school governing authority shall
18 notify the parent or legal guardian of each student who is eligible to receive
19 instruction and services.

1 (2) Establish a process whereby, before a student receives instruction and
2 services, his parent or legal guardian shall be required to enter into a memorandum
3 of understanding with the school of attendance that states that the student is receiving
4 extra assistance and the student will be responsible for his performance.

5 (3) Include the purposes of this Section in its Education Excellence Fund
6 expenditure plan as provided for in R.S. 17:3805.

7 C. A public school student who falls into all of the following categories shall
8 be eligible to receive literacy instruction and reading support services, in addition to
9 his regular coursework:

10 (1) He is enrolled in the sixth through the twelfth grade.

11 (2) He is over-age for his grade level, as defined by parameters set by the
12 department.

13 (3) He is determined to read below grade level.

14 D. The department shall:

15 (1) Evaluate expenditure plans submitted by public school governing
16 authorities as provided for in R.S. 17:3805.

17 (2) Evaluate providers of literacy instruction and reading support services
18 to determine their initial and continued eligibility. The department shall establish
19 minimum criteria by which approved providers shall be evaluated to ensure
20 effectiveness in improving students' reading abilities, including but not limited to
21 performance on approved literacy assessments and, when available, the Louisiana
22 Educational Assessment Program state assessment. Providers that fail to
23 demonstrate improvement in students' reading abilities for two consecutive years
24 shall be deemed ineligible to offer literacy instruction and reading support services.

25 Literacy instruction and reading support services shall include any of the following
26 that are designed to improve reading or literacy skills:

27 (a) Instructional materials and curriculum, including but not limited to online
28 materials, that have been reviewed in accordance with R.S. 17:351.1 and have been
29 determined to fully align with state academic content standards.

1 (b) Tutoring services provided by a person who is trained in the state
2 standards for English language arts and who holds a valid teaching certificate in
3 either elementary education or reading or holds a baccalaureate or graduate degree
4 in education, English, or another subject area indicative of expertise in reading and
5 literacy.

6 (c) Summer education programs for students in grades six through eleven.

7 (d) After-school education programs.

8 E. Each public school governing authority shall report to the department
9 relative to students' participation. The department shall submit a cumulative report
10 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by
11 not later than April thirtieth of each year regarding the administration of instruction
12 and services. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following information for
13 that school year:

14 (1) The total number of students receiving literacy instruction and reading
15 support services.

16 (2) A list of the approved providers to which payments were remitted and the
17 literacy instruction and reading support services provided to each student.

18 (3) A report relative to the performance of each provider and overall
19 performance with respect to improving participants' reading abilities.

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)]

HB 792 Original

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Phelps

Abstract: Provides relative to literacy services for certain public school students in 6th through 12th grade.

Proposed law creates opportunities for certain public school students in 6th through the 12th grade to receive literacy instruction and reading support services.

Proposed law provides that a public school student who is in all of the following categories is eligible:

(1) Enrolled in the sixth through 12th grade.

- (2) Reads below grade level.
- (3) Is over-age for the grade in which he is enrolled, as defined by the state Dept. of Education.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education to:

- (1) Develop an application process and accept applications for service providers.
- (2) Evaluate service providers for eligibility.
- (3) Annually report to the House and Senate education committees regarding services rendered.

Proposed law requires public school governing authorities to notify the parents or legal guardians of eligible students of the services available.

Proposed law requires school districts to include proposed law purposes in their Education Excellence Fund expenditure plans.

(Adds R.S. 17:182)