SLS 22RS-976 **ORIGINAL**

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 403

BY SENATOR BOUIE

1

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Provides relative to screening or testing required for entrance in a public prekindergarten program. (gov sig)

AN ACT

| 2 | To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.8(A) and to enact R.S. 17:3996(B)(67), relative to |
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| 3 | prekindergarten instruction in public schools; to provide for the youngest age a child |
| 4 | may enroll in prekindergarten instruction at public schools; to provide relative to any |
| 5 | testing or screening required for entrance into a program; and to provide for related |
| 6 | matters. |
| 7 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: |
| 8 | Section 1. R.S. 17:24.8(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3996(B)(67) |
| 9 | is hereby enacted to read as follows: |
| 10 | §24.8. Prekindergarten programs |
| 11 | A.(1) Each city, parish, or other local public school board may develop and |
| 12 | offer prekindergarten instruction. The youngest age at which a child may enter |
| 13 | prekindergarten provided for by this Subsection shall be two years younger than the |
| 14 | age required for that child to enter first grade as provided by R.S. 17:222(A) three |
| 15 | years old by September thirtieth of the year in which the child begins |
| 16 | prekindergarten. |
| 17 | (2) Any mandatory screening or testing for entrance into a |

| 1 | prekindergarten program shall be provided by the city, parish, or local school |
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| 2 | board at no cost to the child. The results of any mandatory screening or testing |
| 3 | shall be provided to the child's parent or legal guardian at least fifteen days |
| 4 | prior to the deadline for applying to the program. |
| 5 | * * * |
| 6 | §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements |
| 7 | * * * |
| 8 | B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and |
| 9 | except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a |
| 10 | charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this |
| 11 | Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be |
| 12 | exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are |
| 13 | applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for |
| 14 | the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades: |
| 15 | * * * |
| 16 | (67) Prekindergarten screening, R.S. 17:24.8(A)(2). |
| 17 | * * * |
| 18 | Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not |
| 19 | signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature |
| 20 | by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If |
| 21 | vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become |
| 22 | effective on the day following such approval. |
| | The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett. |

DIGEST 2022 Regular Session

SB 403 Original

Bouie

<u>Present law</u> allows public schools to offer prekindergarten instruction. Further references another section of law that has been amended and no longer includes a minimum age for entrance into first grade.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but clarifies that a child must be at least three years old by September thirtieth of the school year in order to enroll in prekindergarten.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires any mandatory screening or testing for entrance into a prekindergarten program be provided by the local school board at no cost to the child and provides that the results be given to the parent or legal guardian at least 15 days prior to the deadline for applying to the program.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires charter schools to adhere to the requirements relative to any prekindergarten screening and testing required for entrance into the program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.8(A); adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(67))