

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 50

BY SENATOR HEWITT

SCHOOLS. Provides for public school choice in certain high school programs. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:4035.2, relative to public school choice in certain high school programs;
3 to provide for high school programs of choice; to provide for eligibility criteria for
4 students and high schools; to provide for restrictions; to provide relative to the
5 responsibilities of public school systems; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:4035.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§4035.2. Public high school program of choice**

9 **A. For the purposes of this Section, a "program of choice" shall mean a**
10 **public high school program that allows a student to concurrently pursue a high**
11 **school diploma and one of the following:**

12 **(1) A postsecondary degree, credential, or certificate.**

13 **(2) A state-registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship.**

14 **B. A student may enroll in a program of choice offered within his school**
15 **system, without regard to attendance zones, provided that both of the following**
16 **apply:**

17 **(1) The program of choice and the high school offering the program have**

1 available capacity at the appropriate grade level.

2 (2) The program of choice is not offered at the public high school in
3 which the student was most recently enrolled or would otherwise attend.

4 C. The governing authority of each public high school shall adopt
5 policies to govern student transfers to each program of choice that include:

6 (1) A definition of "capacity" for each high school and each program of
7 choice.

8 (2) The transfer request period, which shall begin no later than March
9 first and end no earlier than March twenty-eighth, annually.

10 (3) The process for submitting a transfer request.

11 (4) Admission requirements, if any, for each program of choice.

12 (5) The process for requesting review by the State Board of Elementary
13 and Secondary Education in accordance with R.S. 17:4035.1(C) of a denial of
14 a request to transfer to a program of choice.

15 D. The governing authority of each public high school shall:

16 (1) Partner with local businesses and public postsecondary education
17 institutions to grow programs of choice that are relevant to the school's local
18 area and to the state and that lead to careers in high-demand, high-paying
19 fields.

20 (2) Work to ensure that programs of choice are evenly distributed, to the
21 greatest extent possible, among the high schools in the school system.

22 E. The authority to enroll a student in a program of choice shall not be
23 permitted and shall not be exercised if doing so violates an order of a court of
24 competent jurisdiction.

25 F. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed as requiring a
26 high school or a program of choice with selective admission requirements to
27 enroll a student who does not meet the admission requirements, regardless of
28 whether the school or program of choice has available capacity.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 4 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

SB 50 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Hewitt

Present law provides for public school choice for certain students by allowing students enrolled in schools that earned a "D" or "F" pursuant to the state's accountability system during the prior school year to transfer to certain schools that received an "A", "B", or "C".

Proposed law allows a student to enroll in a program of choice under certain circumstances.

Proposed law defines a "program of choice" as a public high school program that allows a student to concurrently pursue a high school diploma and one of the following:

- (1) A postsecondary degree, credential, or certificate.
- (2) A state-registered apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship.

Proposed law allows a high school student to enroll in a program of choice offered within his school system, without regard to attendance zones, provided that both of the following apply:

- (1) The program of choice and the high school offering the program have available capacity at the appropriate grade level.
- (2) The program of choice is not offered at the public high school in which the student was most recently enrolled, or would otherwise attend.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public high school to adopt policies to govern student transfers to programs of choice. Proposed law further requires the governing authority rules to include:

- (1) A definition of "capacity" for each high school and each program of choice.
- (2) The transfer request period, which shall begin no later than March first and end no earlier than March twenty-eighth, annually.
- (3) The process for submitting a student transfer request for each program.
- (4) Admission requirements, if any, for each program.
- (5) The process for requesting review of a denial of a request to transfer to a program of choice by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with present law (R.S. 17:4035.1(C)).

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public high school to partner with local businesses and public postsecondary education institutions to grow programs of choice that are relevant to the school's local area and to the state that lead to careers in high-

demand, high-paying fields and to work to ensure the programs are evenly distributed among the high schools in the school system.

Proposed law restricts the authority to enroll a student in a program of choice if the enrollment violates an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Proposed law provides that the proposed law shall not be construed as requiring a high school or a program of choice with selective admission requirements to enroll a student who does not meet the admission requirements, regardless of whether the school or program of choice has available capacity.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:4035.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Requires each public school governing authority to work to grow programs of choice and ensure the programs are evenly distributed.