

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 946

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

EDUCATION/SPECIAL: Provides relative to the membership and reports of special education advisory councils

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C) and to enact R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(3)(c),
3 relative to local special education advisory councils; to provide relative to
4 membership on such councils; to provide relative to reports from such councils; and
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
8 17:1944.1(B)(3)(c) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1944.1. Local special education advisory councils; creation; purpose

10 * * *

11 B.(1) The number of council members and composition of the council shall
12 be determined by the local public school superintendent or the administrative head
13 of each charter school or other public school. However, the council's membership
14 shall be composed as follows:

15 (a) ~~Fifty~~ Except as otherwise provided by this Subparagraph, at least fifty
16 percent of the membership shall be parents or legal guardians of students with an
17 exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, who are enrolled in a school under the

1 jurisdiction of or who are receiving special education services from the public school
 2 governing authority, none of whom shall be employees of the public school
 3 governing authority. One high school student with an exceptionality, other than
 4 gifted and talented, and one person who represents an entity that serves students with
 5 disabilities or families of students with disabilities and who is not an employee of the
 6 school governing authority may be counted to meet the requirement of this
 7 Subparagraph.

8 (b) ~~Twenty-five percent of the membership shall be teachers, principals, or~~
 9 ~~paraprofessionals.~~

10 (c) ~~Twenty-five~~ At least ten percent of the membership shall be ~~other~~ special
 11 education stakeholders other than those provided for by Subparagraphs (a) and (c)
 12 of this Paragraph.

13 (c) A teacher, principal, or paraprofessional shall be appointed to any
 14 position on a council that is not filled by a person specified in Subparagraph (a) or
 15 (b) of this Paragraph.

16 * * *

17 (3)

18 * * *

19 (c) A council should be comprised of at least eight members. If a council
 20 has fewer than eight members, the superintendent or administrative head of a charter
 21 school shall provide an explanation of his decision to establish a council with fewer
 22 than eight members. The explanation shall be provided to the council, and the
 23 council shall include it as an addendum to the report required by Subsection C of this
 24 Section.

25 C. Each special education advisory council shall meet at least three times a
 26 year and shall submit a written report to the local public school superintendent or the
 27 administrative head of the charter school or other public school and the Special
 28 Education Advisory Panel in May of each year regarding its activities. The local
 29 public school superintendent or the administrative head of the charter school or other

Present law requires that each local special education advisory council report annually to the superintendent or administrative head.

Proposed law requires each council to also report to the Special Education Advisory Panel. Requires that the superintendent or administrative head ensure that the report is posted on the district's or the school's website. Further requires publication of all such reports on the state Dept. of Education's website.

(Amends R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C); Adds R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(3)(c))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Change proposed law regarding minimum number of council members from 13 to nine and limit applicability of this provision to schools or school systems with more than 1,000 students.
2. Authorize inclusion of one high school student with an exceptionality and one person who represents an entity that serves students with disabilities or their families in the parents groups of council members.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove requirement that certain councils be comprised of not fewer than nine members and require instead that if a council has fewer than eight members, the authority creating the council shall explain this decision.
2. Authorize inclusion of parents of children receiving special education services from the public school governing authority on the councils.