
DIGEST

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HB 946 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Abstract: Provides relative to membership on and reports produced by local special education advisory councils, which advise public schools regarding special education.

Present law requires each local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school or other public school to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. Provides that such a council shall also engage in outreach activities to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

Present law provides that the number of council members is determined by the authority creating the council. Proposed law retains present law but provides that if the council has fewer than eight members, the authority creating the council shall explain this decision to the council, which shall include the explanation in its report as required by proposed law.

Proposed law modifies requirements regarding groups represented on the council as follows:

- (1) Parents or legal guardians of current students with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented:

Present law requires that 50% of council membership be members of this group. Proposed law requires that *at least* 50% of council membership be members of this group, except that this group may include parents of children receiving special education services from the public school governing authority, one high school student with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, and one person who represents an entity that serves students with disabilities or their families. Also prohibits inclusion of school employees in this membership group.

- (2) Special education stakeholders other than parents and teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals:

Present law requires that 25% of council membership be members of this group. Proposed law requires that *at least* 10% of council membership be members of this group.

- (3) Teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals:

Present law requires that 25% of council membership be members of this group. Proposed

law requires the balance of the council membership be appointed from this group.

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.