Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE), within 30 days of initial approval or denial of an application for an approved home school study program and the failure to receive an annual renewal application for a previously approved home study program, to notify the local public school system in which the child was most recently enrolled, and, if different, the public school system in which the child resides.

Proposed law prohibits DOE from recording such a child as a dropout attributable to the public school where he was most recently enrolled or the public school which he would otherwise attend.

Proposed law provides that no local public school system shall be responsible for collecting and maintaining school attendance data for any child who is enrolled in an approved home study program unless and until the parent subsequently enrolls the child in a public school under the authority of the school system.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:221(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Requires a parent to include the name, date of birth, and physical address of each child who is reported to the department by his parent that he is attending a nonpublic school, not seeking state approval.

2. Defines when the department shall report such attendance information to the local school system.

3. Removes language requiring the department to be responsible for ensuring the compulsory attendance of such a child.

4. Provides that the local school system shall not be responsible for ensuring the compulsory attendance of such a child.


Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Deletes requirement for a parent to include the name, date of birth, and physical address of each child who is reported to the department by his parent that he is attending an approved home study program or a nonpublic school, not seeking state approval.

2. Requires DOE to within thirty days of initial approval or denial of an application for an approved home school study program and the failure to receive an annual renewal application for a previously approved home study program, to notify the city, parish, or other public school system in which the child was most recently enrolled, and, if different, the public school system...
of the public school which the child resides. The notification shall include the child's legal name, date of birth, and physical residential address.

3. Provides that no city, parish, or other local public school system shall be responsible for collecting and maintaining school attendance data for any child who is enrolled in or has previously enrolled in an approved home study program, unless and until the parent subsequently enrolls the child in a public school under the authority of the public school system.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove exception to the prohibition against DOE recording certain children as dropouts.

2. Revise information that local school boards are not responsible for collecting.