SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS: Creates the Lifestyle Choices pilot program

DIGEST

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), to develop and implement a school lunch pilot program to be administered by the state Dept. of Education (DOE).

Provides that the purpose of the program is assisting school and school food service personnel to identify and utilize all available resources to increase the use of more fresh food in school nutrition programs.

Requires DOE to select school governing authorities for participation in the program.

Requires DOE and the LDAF to collaboratively:

(1) Provide an inventory of food distribution companies to the schools and school districts eligible for participation.

(2) Disseminate specific procurement guidelines for farmers regarding contracting with schools and school districts and school food safety and liability insurance requirements.

(3) Consult with university agricultural centers, the La. Farm to School Alliance, and other stakeholders in implementing proposed law.

Requires BESE, LDAF, and DOE to utilize existing personnel and resources for the development, implementation, and administration of the program.

(Adds R.S. 17:195.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Removes provision making implementation of the program subject to appropriation.

2. Requires BESE, LDAF, and DOE to utilize existing personnel and resources for the development, implementation, and administration of the program.