

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 150

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Creates the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part XIII of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 17:410.11, and R.S. 36:651(F)(8), relative to literacy; to create the
4 Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission; to provide for membership, quorum,
5 staffing, and powers and duties of the commission; to require certain reports; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part XIII of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
9 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:410.11, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§410.11. Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission**

11 **A. The Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission, referred to in this**
12 **Section as the "commission", is created within the state Department of**
13 **Education for the purpose of providing recommendations for improving,**
14 **strengthening, and supporting literacy in Louisiana.**

15 **B. The commission shall be comprised of the following members:**

16 **(1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.**

17 **(2) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.**

1 **(3) The governor or his designee.**

2 **(4) The state superintendent of education or his designee.**

3 **(5) The president of the Center for Literacy and Learning or his**
4 **designee.**

5 **(6) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry**
6 **or his designee.**

7 **(7) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School**
8 **Superintendents or his designee.**

9 **(8) A staff member of the Board of Regents appointed by the**
10 **commissioner of higher education, who shall serve at the pleasure of the**
11 **commissioner.**

12 **(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Association for the Education**
13 **of Young Children or his designee.**

14 **(10) Two teachers, one selected by the Louisiana Association of**
15 **Educators and one selected by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.**

16 **C.(1) A vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in**
17 **the same manner as the original appointment.**

18 **(2)(a) The commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from**
19 **among its membership.**

20 **(b) The state superintendent of education shall call the first meeting no**
21 **later than September 1, 2023, and shall preside over the meeting until the**
22 **commission elects a chairman.**

23 **(3) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation**
24 **except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually**
25 **entitled as members of their constituent organizations.**

26 **(4) The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman but not less**
27 **frequently than once every three months. At each meeting the state Department**
28 **of Education shall provide updates on the progress of implementation of the**
29 **commission's recommendations. The commission shall make any further**

1 recommendations necessary to fulfill its duties.

2 (5) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a
3 quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of the members present and
4 voting shall be necessary for the commission to take any action. The commission
5 and any committees created pursuant to Paragraph (E)(5) of this Section shall
6 be domiciled in Baton Rouge but may hold public hearings elsewhere in the
7 state. All meetings of the commission and its committees shall comply with the
8 provisions of the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq.

9 D. The Department of Education shall provide staff and other support
10 for the commission.

11 E. The commission shall study and make recommendations to the State
12 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Education,
13 and the Louisiana Legislature for improving literacy in Louisiana. When
14 conducting analysis and making recommendations, the commission shall have
15 the following powers and duties:

16 (1) To serve as the advisory board to the State Board of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education and the Department of Education on matters relating to
18 literacy.

19 (2) To research and analyze all policies, regulations, and procedures
20 relative to the implementation of literacy initiatives, reforms, and practices.

21 (3) To formulate policy and programming recommendations and to
22 report those recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
23 Education, the Department of Education, and the Louisiana Legislature in
24 accordance with the provisions of Subsection F of this Section.

25 (4) To request and review state, regional, and national literacy data to
26 determine and understand the effectiveness and impact of literacy initiatives,
27 reforms, and practices.

28 (5) To establish and appoint members of the commission to committees
29 to identify, analyze, and make recommendations to the commission in the areas

- 1 **of:**
- 2 **(a) Dyslexia.**
- 3 **(b) Early childhood literacy.**
- 4 **(c) Any other area deemed appropriate by the commission.**
- 5 **F. Not later than February sixth annually, the commission shall provide**
- 6 **a report of its findings and recommendations and the status of the**
- 7 **implementation of its recommendations to the governor, the members of the**
- 8 **legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of**
- 9 **Elementary and Secondary Education. The report shall be submitted to the**
- 10 **David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and**
- 11 **772.**

Section 2. R.S. 36:651(F)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of
Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of
Education

* * *

F. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the
Department of Education as provided in R.S. 36:901 et seq.:

* * *

(8) The Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission (R.S. 17:410.11).

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Section 3. The Louisiana Early Literacy Commission provided for in Senate
Resolution No. 133 of the 2021 Regular Session is hereby terminated.

Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
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 LG Sullivan.

DIGEST

SB 150 Engrossed 2023 Regular Session Robert Mills

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Literacy Commission (commission) within the state Dept. of Education (DOE) for the purpose of providing recommendations for improving, strengthening, and supporting literacy in Louisiana. Provides for commission membership, quorum, staffing, compensation, committees, and powers and duties. Requires commission and committee meetings to comply with present law provisions of the Open Meetings Law.

Proposed law requires the commission to meet at least once every three months. Requires the state supt. of education to call the first meeting no later than September 1, 2023. Requires DOE to provide updates on the implementation of the commission's recommendations at each meeting.

Proposed law requires the commission to submit an annual report of its findings and recommendations and the status of the implementation of its recommendations to the governor, the legislature, the state supt. of education, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:410.11 and R.S. 36:651(F)(8))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Add teachers to the board, one selected by the Louisiana Association of Educators and one selected by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
2. Terminate the Louisiana Early Literacy Commission provided for in Senate Resolution No. 133 of the 2021 Regular Session.