
DIGEST

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HB 315 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Charles Owen

Abstract: Provides relative to public school administration.

Present law (R.S. 17:264) authorizes the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish a "Distinction for Community Service" diploma endorsement program for high school students who perform community service. Proposed law retains present law but prohibits the following:

- (1) Students from receiving academic credit for community service.
- (2) Political activity from qualifying as community service for purposes of present law.

Present law (R.S. 17:266) requires that cursive writing be taught in all public schools, including charter schools. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires each public school governing authority to report to the state Dept. of Education (DOE) relative to the implementation of present law. Further requires DOE to submit a cumulative report to the legislature by July 31st each year.

Present law (R.S. 17:274.1) requires all public high schools to provide instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to graduation. Proposed law retains present law. Present law requires BESE to prescribe suitable teaching materials for such instruction. Proposed law removes this requirement.

Present law (R.S. 17:281) authorizes any public elementary or secondary school to offer instruction in sex education, provided such instruction is integrated into an existing course of study such as biology, science, physical hygiene, or physical education. Present law authorizes a city or parish school system to accept federal funds for programs offering sex education upon approval by the local school board. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the school board to approve the funds on an annual basis in a public meeting at a time and place advertised by the school board at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Present law (R.S. 17:351.1) provides relative to public review of textbooks. Requires that student editions of textbooks be made available online. Proposed law requires all editions of textbooks be made available online and in-person.

Present law (R.S. 17:381) authorizes BESE and school boards to accept donations for educational and literary purposes. Proposed law requires such boards to make details of such donations available

on their websites.

Effective in part August 1, 2023; effective in part January 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 17:264(A)(1), 266, 274.1(A), 281(G), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), and 381; Adds R.S. 17:264(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove the proposed law removal of requirement that BESE prescribe suitable teaching materials for instruction in free enterprise, an elective course for public high school students.
2. Remove the proposed law removal of authorization for sex education instruction to be offered in public elementary schools.
3. Remove the proposed law removal of authorization for sex education instruction to be offered at times other than the regular school day.
4. Remove the proposed law requirement that the legislative education committees review the implementation of the activities of the Quality Science and Mathematics Council.
5. Remove the proposed law abolition of the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline.
6. Remove the proposed law authorization for superintendents to waive instruction in adoption awareness, litter prevention and awareness, shaken baby syndrome, and parenthood education.