

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 315

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES OWEN

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

STUDENTS: Provides relative to administration of public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:264(A)(1), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), and 381 and to enact R.S.
3 17:264(C) and 1942.1, relative to the administration of public schools; to provide
4 relative to donations to schools; to require the State Board of Elementary and
5 Secondary Education to submit an annual report to the legislature relative to local
6 compliance with special education requirements and to post the report on its website;
7 to provide relative to the diploma endorsement program for the performance of
8 community service by high school students; to provide relative to textbooks and
9 other instructional materials; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 17:264(A)(1), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), and 381 are hereby amended and
12 reenacted and R.S. 17:264(C) and 1942.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §264. Community service; high school diploma endorsement program

14 A.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may
15 establish a "Distinction for Community Service" diploma endorsement program to
16 recognize high school students who perform a certain number of hours of
17 documented community service. Community service hours shall not count toward
18 academic course work or graded work in any public school. The number of service
19 hours required to earn a diploma endorsement shall be determined by the state board

1 and shall accrue from the ninth grade through the twelfth grade.

2 * * *

3 C. The community service performed pursuant to this Section shall not be
4 related to political activities of any kind.

5 * * *

6 §351.1. Textbooks and other instructional materials; review; adoption; procurement;
7 distribution

8 * * *

9 B.

10 * * *

11 (3) The review process shall, at a minimum, provide for the following:

12 * * *

13 (d)(i) The opportunity for parents and the public to view and submit
14 comments on all textbooks and instructional materials under review. A copy of all
15 ~~student edition~~ textbooks and instructional materials under review shall be made
16 readily available online and in-person for this purpose. Reasonable safeguards
17 against unauthorized use, reproduction, and distribution shall be provided.

18 * * *

19 §381. Acceptance of donations by state and parish school boards

20 The ~~state board of education~~ State Board of Elementary and Secondary
21 Education and ~~the several parish school boards may,~~ any school board, in accordance
22 with the provisions of this Part, may accept and administer any donation that may be
23 made to them for educational or literary purposes, and each board shall enumerate
24 details of the contents of such donations in a document made publicly available on
25 its website.

26 * * *

27 §1942.1. Compliance; report by state board

28 A. Not later than July first annually, the State Board of Elementary and
29 Secondary Education shall submit a written report to House Committee on Education

- 1 and the Senate Committee on Education relative to school district compliance with
 2 special education requirements, which shall include, at minimum, the following:
- 3 (1) A description of the state board's audit process on compliance.
 4 (2) School district compliance.
 5 (3) School district noncompliance.
 6 (4) How long the noncompliance issues have existed.
 7 (5) School-level remediation action plans on noncompliance.
 8 (6) Authority of the state board to remediate unresolved noncompliance.
 9 (7) Actual actions taken by the state board to remediate unresolved
 10 noncompliance.
- 11 B. The state board shall also post the report on its website in an easily
 12 accessible location.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 315 Reengrossed

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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. 17:351.1) 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.

Proposed law (R.S. 17:1942.1) requires BESE to submit an annual report to the legislative committees on education relative to school district compliance with special education requirements.

(Amends R.S. 17:264(A)(1), 351.1(B)(3)(d)(i), and 381; Adds R.S. 17:264(C) and 1942.1)

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.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove proposed law:
 - a. That required each public school governing authority to report to the state Dept. of Education (DOE) relative to the implementation of present law requirement that cursive writing be taught in all public schools and that DOE submit a cumulative report to the legislature.
 - b. That removed present law requirement that BESE prescribe suitable teaching materials for Civics and Free Enterprise instruction required by present law in all public high schools.
 - c. That required a school board that accepts federal funds for programs offering sex education pursuant to present law to approve the funds annually in a public meeting at a time and place advertised by the school board at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
2. Add proposed law requirement that BESE report on school districts' compliance with special education requirements.