
DIGEST

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HB 622 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bayham

Abstract: Changes the definition of "school" and removes certain attendance and reporting requirements.

Kindergarten Attendance and Compulsory School Attendance

Present law provides compulsory school attendance for children age five through 18, unless the child's parent or legal guardian opts to defer enrollment of his child in kindergarten or the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday.

Proposed law instead applies compulsory school attendance requirements to parents of children under the age of majority who choose to send children to a public or nonprofit school.

Definition of a School

Present law defines a school as "an institution for the teaching of children, consisting of an adequate physical plant, whether owned or leased instructional staff members, and students". Specifies a home study program shall be approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education if it meets certain curriculum requirements and attendance in such programs shall be considered in attendance at a day school.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead defines school as "a public or nonprofit institution under the purview of BESE that exists for the purpose of educating children".

Student Attendance Data

Present law requires a parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in an approved home study program or a nonpublic school not seeking state approval to report such enrollment to the state Dept. of Education (DOE).

Present law requires DOE, within 30 days of initial approval or denial of an application for an approved home 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.

Present 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.

Present 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.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:221(A)(1) and (E)(1)(a) and 236(A) and (C)(1) through (3); Adds R.S. 17:236(F); Repeals R.S. 17:221(E)(1)(b), (2), and (3))