

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 38

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

CURRICULA. Provide with respect to the Course Choice Program. (7/1/25)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4002.3(2)(b) and the introductory paragraph of 4002.5(A) and (A)(1) and (B), relative to the course providers; to provide with respect to definitions; to provide with respect to student eligibility, course approval, and enrollment; to provide relative to student individual graduation plans; to provide with respect to the duties of the department; to provide with respect to the duties of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and public school governing authorities; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:4002.3(2)(b) and the introductory paragraph of 4002.5(A), (A) (1) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§4002.3. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *

(2) "Eligible funded student" means any student who resides in Louisiana and meets the following criteria:

* * *

(b) ~~Has obtained approval from the local school superintendent or other~~ **Has consulted with the** person designated by the governing authority of the school that he attends to enroll in a course pursuant to this Part **and has written permission from a parent or legal guardian.** **Pursuant to R.S. 17:4002.5, the student shall not be permitted to enroll in a course that conflicts with any of the following:**

(i) A determination made by the student's school counselor that the course is not to be academically appropriate considering the student's chosen major or graduation pathway.

(ii) The department's published student high school planning resources.

* * *

§4002.5. Public school governing authority duties; accountability; rules

A. The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school shall establish policies and procedures whereby an eligible funded student ~~may be granted approval to enroll~~ **enrolls** in a course pursuant to this Part, which shall also provide for the following:

(1) ~~Determination~~ Advising the student and his parent or legal custodian as part of the development and annual review of the student's Individual Graduation Plan, pursuant to R.S. 17:2925 of whether a requested course is academically appropriate for the student.

* * *

B. Each local public school system shall make available to all students **during the annual course enrollment process for the school system** the course catalogue as provided by the **department derived from a list of course providers approved by the** state board ~~during the annual course enrollment process for that local school system.~~

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025; if vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day

1 following such approval by the legislature or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

SB 38 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Edmonds

Present law provides for the Course Choice Program and requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to create a process for authorizing course providers, including online or virtual providers, postsecondary education institutions, and corporations that offer vocational or technical courses. Provides for monitoring and evaluation of course providers by BESE.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law defines "eligible funded student" as a student who resides in La. and meets one of the following criteria:

- (1) Attends a public school.
- (2) Has obtained approval from the local school superintendent or other governing authority of the school that he attends to enroll in the course.

Proposed law changes the definition of "eligible funded student" from a student that obtains approval from the local school superintendent or governing authority to a student who obtains parental approval after consultation with the person designated by the governing authority of the school.

Present law provides that each public governing authority is to establish procedures whereby an eligible funded student may be granted approval to enroll in a Course Choice Program pursuant to present law.

Proposed law changes the requirement that the public school governing authority determine the appropriateness of the requested course to advising the student and the student's parents as to the appropriateness as part of the development and annual review of the student's Individual Graduation Plan. Restricts the choice of course if the student's school counselor determines that the course is not academically appropriate with the student's chosen major or graduation pathway. Restricts the student's choice of course if the course violates the department's published student high school planning resources.

Present law provides that each local public school system must make available to all students the course catalogue as provided by BESE, during the annual course enrollment process for that local school system.

Present law provides that the local public school system is to provide the course catalog from a list provided by the Dept. of Education that is approved by BESE.

Proposed law maintains present law.

Effective July 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 17:4002.3(2)(b) and 4002.5(A)(intro para) and (A)(1) and (B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds restriction of student's enrollment in a course if the student's school counselor decides that the course is not appropriate to the student's chosen major or if the course violates the department's published student high school planning resources.