

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

SCHOOLS/BOARDS: Requires local elected school board members to meet certain criteria prior to qualifying

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:52(E)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:52(F), relative to eligibility for
3 membership on a school board; to provide that possession of a high school diploma
4 is required for service on a school board; to provide that a person who has been
5 convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to certain crimes is not eligible to serve on
6 a school board; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:52(E)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:52(F) is
9 hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §52. Election and qualification of members; term of office

11 * * *

12 E.(1) Any person who at the time of qualification as a candidate for the
13 school board has attained the age of eighteen, possesses a high school diploma or its
14 equivalent as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
15 Education, has resided in the state for the preceding two years, and has been actually
16 domiciled for the preceding year in the parish, ward, or district from which he seeks
17 election is eligible for membership on the school board. However, at the next regular
18 election for members of the school board following a reapportionment, an elector
19 may qualify as a candidate from any district created in whole or in part from a
20 district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in the prior district for

1 at least one year immediately preceding his qualification and was a resident of the
2 state for the two years preceding his qualification.

3 * * *

4 F. Any person who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a
5 crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C) is not eligible to qualify as a candidate for
6 membership on a school board.

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 188 Engrossed

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Abstract: Applicable to service as a member of an elected school board, provides that possession of a high school diploma is required for eligibility and disqualifies persons who have been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to certain crimes.

Present law provides for the election of school board members in accordance with the present law provisions of the La. Election Code. Provides that a person is eligible for membership on a school board if he, at the time of qualification as a candidate, is at least 18, has resided in the state for the preceding two years, and has been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the parish, ward, or district from which he seeks election. Provides that in addition to these qualifications, each school board member shall be able to read and write.

Proposed law retains present law and provides as follows:

- (1) Adds that a person shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent in order to be eligible for membership on a school board.
- (2) Provides that any person who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)) is not eligible to serve on a school board.

(Amends R.S. 17:52(E)(1); Adds R.S. 17:52(F))