

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 708

2024 Regular Session

Freiberg

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Removes requirements that charter schools meet a certain threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities and economically disadvantaged students relative to its total student enrollment.

DIGEST

Present law requires a charter school to meet a certain threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities (other than gifted or talented) and economically disadvantaged students relative to their total student enrollment. Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law revises present law relative to charter proposals as follows:

- (1) Present law precludes the exclusion of students based on certain criteria. Proposed law adds being economically disadvantaged to these criteria.
- (2) Present law requires a description of how a charter school fulfills present law purposes. Proposed law includes consideration of how to serve the best interests of economically disadvantaged students in this requirement.
- (3) Present law requires a description of a school's education program. Proposed law adds how the program will meet the educational needs of economically disadvantaged students and students with exceptionalities to this requirement.

Present law provides for admissions lotteries. Proposed law provides additional lottery procedures including parental notification.

Proposed law requires BESE to develop rules and regulations to determine if charter schools are compliant with transparency requirements and to provide a process to investigate allegations of discriminatory practices.

Present law prohibits a charter school from requiring parents to disclose certain information (a student's medical information or special education needs) prior to enrollment unless otherwise required by law. Proposed law adds income and economically disadvantaged status to this information.

Present law authorizes giving enrollment preference to students with special needs when parents have disclosed such needs. Proposed law includes economically disadvantaged students whose parents have disclosed this status.

(Amends R.S. 17:3973(2)(b)(v)(aa), 3983(F)(1), 3991(B)(3), (6), and (7), (C)(1)(a), (b), and (c)(i) and (iii), and (E)(6), and 3991.1(E)(2); enacts R.S. 17:3991(C)(1)(e); repeals R.S. 17:3991(B)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the engrossed bill

1. Requires BESE to develop rules and provide for an investigation process