

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 904

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHENEVERT

EDUCATION: Requires school-level reporting by public schools and postsecondary education institutions on programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and requires the state Department of Education and the Board of Regents to submit summary reports to certain legislative committees

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82) and to repeal R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and
3 3996(B)(82), relative to education; to require each public school and public
4 postsecondary education institution to submit a report relative to funding and
5 personnel used for programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging;
6 to provide for the content of the reports and submission either to the state
7 Department of Education or the Board of Regents, as applicable; to require the
8 department and the board to report to certain legislative committees relative to the
9 reports submitted by the schools and institutions; to provide for definitions; to
10 provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82) are hereby enacted to read as
13 follows:

14 §2122. Disclosure of funding and personnel; programs related to diversity, equity,
15 inclusion, and belonging; public elementary and secondary schools

16 A.(1) Each public elementary and secondary school shall submit a written
17 report of each campus program related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
18 for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 fiscal years to its school board by
19 October 31, 2024.

1 (2) For purposes of this Section, "program related to diversity, equity,
2 inclusion, and belonging" means any program, activity, initiative, event, instruction,
3 action, or policy that classifies or references individuals on the basis of race, color,
4 sex, national origin, culture, gender identity, or sexual orientation or promotes
5 differential or preferential treatment of individuals on the basis of such classification.

6 B. Each report shall include, at minimum, the following:

7 (1) The purpose and expected outcome of each program.

8 (2) A brief description of each program.

9 (3) The number of personnel dedicated to the program.

10 (4) The total amount of funding expended to support or implement the
11 program, including salaries, stipends, and benefits.

12 (5) Of the total amount spent to support the program, the amount that is
13 state-funded.

14 C. Each school board shall develop a written report containing the
15 information reported by each school, disaggregated by school and by the nature of
16 the program and the funding thereof, and shall submit its report to the state
17 Department of Education by December 31, 2024.

18 D. The department shall develop a comprehensive written report containing
19 the information reported by each board, disaggregated by school, by system, and by
20 the nature of the program and the funding thereof, and submit its report to the House
21 Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on
22 Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Finance by January 31, 2025.

23 §2123. Disclosure of funding and personnel; programs related to diversity, equity,
24 inclusion, and belonging; public postsecondary education institutions

25 A.(1) Each public postsecondary education institution shall submit a written
26 report of each campus program related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
27 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to its management board by October 31, 2024.

1 (2) For purposes of this Section, "program related to diversity, equity,
2 inclusion, and belonging" means any program, initiative, or office related to
3 diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

4 B.(1) Each report shall include, at minimum, the following:

5 (a) The purpose and expected outcome of each program.

6 (b) A brief description of each program.

7 (c) The number of personnel dedicated to the program.

8 (d) The total amount of state funding expended to support or implement the
9 program, including salaries, stipends, and benefits.

10 (2) Institutions shall not include programs related to sororities or fraternities,
11 athletics, Title IX, or academic curricula in their reports.

12 C. Each management board shall develop a written report containing the
13 information reported by each institution, disaggregated by institution and by the
14 nature of the program and the funding thereof, and shall submit its report to the
15 Board of Regents by December 31, 2024.

16 D. The Board of Regents shall develop a comprehensive written report
17 containing the information reported by each management board, disaggregated by
18 institution, by system, and by the nature of the program and the funding thereof, and
19 submit its report to the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on
20 Education, House Committee on Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Finance
21 by January 31, 2025.

22 * * *

23 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

24 * * *

25 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
26 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
27 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
28 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
29 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are

1 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
2 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

3 * * *

4 (82) Reports on programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and
5 belonging, R.S. 17:2122.

6 * * *

7 Section 2. R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

8 Section 3.(A) Section 1 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon
9 signature of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of
10 the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by
11 Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor
12 and subsequently approved by the legislature, Section 1 and this Section of this Act shall
13 become effective on the day following such approval.

14 (B) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on February 1, 2025.

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 904 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Chenevert

Abstract: Requires each public school and public postsecondary education institution to report on funding and personnel for programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Proposed law, applicable to both public elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary education institutions, requires school-level reporting for campus programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEI), including the purpose and expected outcome of each program, a brief description of each program, and the number of personnel dedicated to the program.

K-12 Education

Proposed law defines "program related to DEI" as any program, activity, initiative, event, instruction, action, or policy that classifies or references individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, culture, gender identity, or sexual orientation or promotes differential or preferential treatment of individuals on the basis of such classification.

Proposed law requires each public school, for FY 2021-2022, FY 2022-2023, and FY 2023-2024, to submit to its school board a written report of all campus programs related to DEI by Oct. 31, 2024. Requires each school board to submit a report on its schools to the state Dept. of Education (DOE) by Dec. 31, 2024. Requires DOE to submit a report summarizing

this information to the House and Senate education committees, House Committee on Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Finance by Jan. 31, 2025.

Proposed law requires that the report include:

- (1) The total amount of funding expended to support or implement the program, including salaries, stipends, and benefits.
- (2) Of the total amount spent to support the program, the amount that is state-funded.

Postsecondary Education

Proposed law defines "program related to DEI" as any program, office, or initiative related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Proposed law requires each institution, for FY 2023-2024, to submit to its management board a written report of all campus programs related to DEI by Oct. 31, 2024. Requires each management board to submit a report on its institutions to the Bd. of Regents by Dec. 31, 2024. Requires Regents to submit a report summarizing this information to the House and Senate education committees, House Committee on Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Finance by Jan. 31, 2025.

Proposed law requires that the report include the total amount of state funding expended to support or implement the program, including salaries, stipends, and benefits. Exempts athletics, Title IX, sororities and fraternities, and academic curricula from the reporting requirement.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action; repeal of proposed law effective Feb. 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82); Repeals R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. For postsecondary education, limit reporting to the most recent fiscal year, revise definition of DEI program, limit reported funding to state funding, and exempt athletics, sororities and fraternities, and academic curricula from reporting requirement.
2. Revise steps of reporting as follows:
 - (a) K-12 education: school to school board by Oct. 31, 2024; school board to DOE by Dec. 31, 2024; DOE to legislative committees by Jan. 31, 2025.
 - (b) Postsecondary education: institution to management board by Oct. 31, 2024; management board to Bd. of Regents by Dec. 31, 2024; Regents to legislative committees by Jan. 31, 2025.