

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 46

BY SENATORS SHAW AND LONG

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS. Provides for the Louisiana Virtual School. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:236.4, relative to the Louisiana Virtual School; to provide for enrollment of students; to provide for the adoption of policies; to provide relative to student access to and credit for courses taken through the virtual school; to require notification to students and parents of such virtual school option; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:236.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§236.4. Louisiana Virtual School

A. The Louisiana Virtual School, hereinafter referred to as "virtual school", is hereby created in the Louisiana Department of Education as a technology-based program that expands learning opportunities to high school students through courses of study that may not otherwise be available to them and offers access to a full menu of standards-based, online courses of study in subjects which are delivered by certified teachers using the Internet, electronic mail, and other online resources.

B. Any high school student may enroll in a course of study offered by the

1 virtual school through the high school in which the student is enrolled.

2 C.(1) No later than January 1, 2012, the governing authority of each
3 public secondary school shall:

4 (a) Enter into a legal agreement with the department.

5 (b) Identify a school site facilitator to oversee the registration process for
6 students and assist with other related administrative matters.

7 (c) Develop and adopt policies that provide students with educational
8 opportunities through the virtual school, including but not limited to the
9 following:

10 (i) A process for access to and enrollment in any virtual school course of
11 study.

12 (ii) A procedure for awarding credit to a student who successfully
13 completes a virtual school course of study.

14 (2) Policies adopted pursuant to this Section shall not limit student access
15 to any course of study offered by the virtual school, including but not limited to
16 any course that is not offered at the high school in which the student is enrolled.

17 D. Credit for all courses of study completed through the virtual school
18 shall be granted through the high school. A mid-term progress report and final
19 letter grade shall be issued by the instructor and forwarded to the high school
20 through the department. The high school shall process all credits in accordance
21 with the policies adopted pursuant to Subparagraph (C)(1)(c) of this Section.

22 E. Beginning on January 1, 2012, and continuing thereafter, the
23 governing authority of each public secondary school shall inform each student
24 and parent or legal custodian, in writing, upon enrollment in high school of the
25 virtual school option and any available virtual school course offerings.

26 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
27 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
28 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
29 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

1 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sherri H. Breaux.

DIGEST

Proposed law creates the La. Virtual School in the Dept. of Education as a technology-based program that expands learning opportunities to high school students through courses of study that may not otherwise be available to students and offers access to a full menu of standards-based, online courses of study in subjects which are delivered by certified teachers using the Internet, electronic mail, and other online resources.

Provides for the enrollment of high school students in virtual school courses through their high schools. Requires the governing authority of each public secondary school, not later than Jan. 1, 2012, to do the following:

- (1) Enter into a legal agreement with the department.
- (2) Identify a school site facilitator to oversee the registration process for students and assist with other related administrative matters.
- (3) Develop and adopt policies that provide students with educational opportunities through the virtual school, including but not limited to a process for access to and enrollment in any virtual school course of study and a procedure for awarding credit to a student who successfully completes a virtual school course of study. Prohibits policies from limiting student access to any course of study offered by the virtual school, including but not limited to any course that is not offered at the high school in which the student is enrolled.

Provides that credit for all courses of study completed through the virtual school be granted through the high school. Requires a mid-term progress report and final letter grade to be issued by the instructor and forwarded to the high school through the department.

Requires, beginning on January 1, 2012 and continuing thereafter, the governing authority of each public secondary school to inform each student and parent or legal custodian, in writing, upon enrollment in high school of the virtual school option and any available virtual school course offerings.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:236.4)