

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 104

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

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

BESE. Requires BESE to develop a process to certify foreign language immersion programs. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:273.2, relative to the teaching of foreign languages in elementary and secondary schools; to provide with respect to a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs; to provide for minimum criteria; to provide for rules; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:273.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§273.2. Foreign language immersion programs; certification process; criteria**

**A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop and implement a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs as a means to provide statewide standards for foreign language immersion programs and assist and support schools and school districts in establishing and maintaining high quality, highly effective foreign language immersion programs.**

**B.(1) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year and annually thereafter, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall designate any foreign language immersion program that consistently meets the criteria listed**

1 below as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program".

2 (a) Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily  
3 instruction in the immersion language.

4 (b) High quality immersion language teaching time.

5 (c) Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language  
6 as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.

7 (d) Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area  
8 teaching time.

9 (e) Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the  
10 immersion language.

11 (f) Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion  
12 teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.

13 (g) Provision of student remediation, as needed, in the immersion  
14 language.

15 (h) Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary,  
16 secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.

17 (i) Visibility and recognition of the foreign language immersion program  
18 throughout the school.

19 (j) Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the foreign  
20 language immersion program.

21 (2) Notice of receipt of State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
22 Education designation as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program"  
23 shall be included on the school's annual report card compiled by the  
24 Department of Education and in the academic records of each student enrolled  
25 in the program.

26 C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall  
27 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this Section in accordance with  
28 the Administrative Procedure Act.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 4 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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#### DIGEST

LaFleur (SB 104)

Proposed law requires BESE to develop and implement a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs. Provides that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, BESE shall designate any foreign language immersion program that meets the criteria listed below as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program."

- (1) Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily instruction in the immersion language.
- (2) High quality immersion language teaching time.
- (3) Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.
- (4) Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area teaching time.
- (5) Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the immersion language.
- (6) Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.
- (8) Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.
- (9) Visibility and recognition of the foreign language immersion program throughout the school.
- (10) Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the foreign language immersion program.

Proposed law provides that notice of receipt of BESE designation as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program" shall be included on the school's annual report compiled by the Dept. of Education and in the academic records of each student enrolled in the program.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:273.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Changes focus of program from issuance of a seal of excellence to a process to certify foreign language immersion programs.
2. Specifies that notice of enrollment in a certified foreign language immersion program shall be included in a student's academic records.