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## DIGEST

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Chaney

HB No. 95

**Abstract:** Exempts students who are at least 17 years old and have been issued a La. high school equivalency diploma from the compulsory school attendance law and other related provisions.

Present law (R.S. 17:221) requires every parent (or certain other persons) having control or charge of any child from that child's seventh birthday until his 18th birthday to send the child to a public or private day school unless the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday. Specifies penalties for violation.

Present law (R.S. 17:222-240) further provides relative to school attendance, including but not limited to dropout prevention and recovery, visiting teacher or supervisors of child welfare and attendance, exemptions from compulsory attendance, habitual absence or tardiness, home study programs, prohibited use of electronic telecommunication devices, and prohibition against smoking in schools.

Proposed law retains present law and exempts from present law a child who is at least 17 years old and has been issued a La. high school equivalency diploma after successfully completing a program established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Provides that such child shall be considered exited from high school.

(Adds R.S. 17:221(K))