
DIGEST

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Carter

HB No. 650

Abstract: Provides relative to the organization of the state Dept. of Education.

Present law creates the Dept. of Education to be composed of the executive office of the superintendent, the office of management and finance, the office of literacy, the office of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the office of college and career readiness, the office of departmental support, the office of innovation, the Special School District, and such other offices as shall be created by law. Proposed law eliminates the office of literacy, the office of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the office of college and career readiness, the office of departmental support, and the office of innovation from the Dept. of Education. Proposed law adds the office of district support.

Present law requires appointment of a deputy superintendent of the department. Proposed law removes the requirement and instead authorizes appointment of a deputy state superintendent. Further provides that, if no deputy state superintendent is appointed, the state superintendent shall designate the deputy superintendent of management and finance or the deputy superintendent of district support to serve in his absence. Proposed law deletes present law requirement that the deputy superintendent be the first assistant to the state superintendent.

Present law provides that each office within the Dept. of Education shall be under the immediate supervision and direction of an assistant deputy superintendent, who shall be appointed by the superintendent with consent of the Senate. Proposed law provides that the office of management and finance and office of district support shall be under the immediate supervision and direction of a deputy superintendent, who shall be appointed by the state superintendent with consent of the Senate.

Present law provides that the office of management and finance shall perform the functions of the state relating to accounting and budget control, procurement and contract management, management and program analysis, grants management, and personnel management, all in accordance with applicable law. Proposed law removes personnel management from list of functions; otherwise retains present law. Proposed law specifies that personnel management shall be a duty of the state superintendent of education.

Proposed law provides that the purpose and function of the office of district support is to support local education agencies in identifying opportunities and resources for improved instructional leadership, effective policy and practice, and comprehensive intervention in their lowest performing schools. It shall serve as the office having primary communications and support for all local superintendents, charter school leaders, and school administrative staff throughout the state.

Present law creates the Remedial Education Commission. The commission's purpose is to study and review the data on educational services provided in public and secondary schools and remedial education provided at public postsecondary education institutions, of recommending best practices and strategies to be used by public elementary and secondary schools and public postsecondary education institutions in providing such educational services, and of recommending any necessary statutory and regulatory changes to the legislature, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Regents related to the study.

Present law provides that membership of the Remedial Education Association shall include the assistant deputy superintendent of the office of college and career readiness of the state Dept. of Education or his designee. Proposed law removes such provision and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 36:642(B) and (C), 643, 644, 645(A), (B)(1)(a)(i), and (C), 646, 648, 649, and 651(B); Repeals R.S. 17:3138.1(C)(7))