

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 116 by Representative Hoffmann

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS: Provides for the creation of the Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional Materials within the Department of Education

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Deletes all proposed law in the reengrossed version of the bill and instead creates and provides for the Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional Materials within the Dept. of Education. The deleted proposed law would have shifted the responsibility for adopting textbooks from the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to local school boards and would have:
 - (a) Amended present law provisions relative to the following:
 - (i) The public review and screening of textbooks prior to adoption.
 - (ii) Contracts with publishers.
 - (iii) The sale of textbooks no longer in use.
 - (iv) Textbooks for home study students.
 - (b) Repealed present law provisions relative to the following:
 - (i) The requirement that the state superintendent of education prepare the list of books and other materials for BESE adoption.
 - (ii) The verification and payment of administrative costs incurred by school boards in disbursing textbooks to nonpublic school students.
 - (iii) The donation and disposal of school books no longer in use.
 - (iv) The requirement that BESE prescribe and adopt books and materials for postsecondary and vocational-technical schools.
 - (v) The requirement that BESE require publishers to furnish computer diskettes for producing braille versions of textbooks.
 - (vi) The state Dept. of Education's service as the state depository for school books.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law creates the Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional Materials within the Dept. of Education and provides that its purpose is to review, analyze, and make recommendations relative to the processes used in selecting and approving textbooks and other instructional materials for public schools. Provides for 18 members, as follows:

- (1) The state superintendent of education, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman.

- (2) A member of the staff of the state Dept. of Education with a working knowledge of such processes.
- (3) One member appointed by each of the following: La. School Boards Association, La. Association of School Superintendents, La. Association of School Executives, La. Association of Principals, La. Federation of Teachers, La. Association of Educators, and Associated Professional Educators of La.
- (4) Three classroom teachers and three parents of students enrolled in an elementary or secondary school, appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (5) A member of the La. Senate, appointed by the Senate president.
- (6) A member of the La. House of Representatives, appointed by the House speaker.
- (7) A representative of the Association of American Publishers.

Provides that members shall serve without compensation but may receive per diem or reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by the appointing authority and provides that vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original appointment.

Requires the state superintendent of education to convene the first meeting by Sept. 1, 2013, and to designate staff to assist the task force. Requires that the task force:

- (1) Consider the following when making its recommendations:
 - (a) The optimal balance of authority and responsibility between the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of Education, and schools and school systems for the review, selection, and purchase of texts and instructional materials, including internet content.
 - (b) Strategies to increase the use of electronic texts and other instructional materials and address the costs of providing related hardware and internet access.
 - (c) Strategies to revise the processes used in such review, selection, and purchase in order to provide maximum flexibility for schools while ensuring that students are provided with texts and instructional materials that are current and aligned with state content standards.
 - (d) A process to facilitate the purchase and delivery of texts and instructional materials at the lowest possible cost and in a timely manner.
- (2) Submit a written report of findings and recommendations for related policy and statutory changes to the House and Senate committees on education by Feb. 1, 2014.

Provides that the task force shall terminate on June 30, 2014.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:8.3 and R.S. 36:651(G)(1))