

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
House Bill No. 115 By Representative James

June 5, 2013

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 115 by Representative James, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That Senate Committee Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and adopted by the Senate on May 30, 2013, be adopted.
2. That the Legislative Bureau Amendment adopted by the Senate on May 31, 2013, be adopted.
3. That the following amendment to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, line 10, after "(2)" and before "State" change "The" to "By October 1, 2013, the"

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Edward "Ted" James

Senator Conrad Appel

Representative Stephen F. Carter

Senator Dan Claitor

Representative Hunter Greene

Senator Mack "Bodi" White, Jr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

House Bill No. 115 by Representative James

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: Provides for parent petitions relative to the transfer of certain schools from the Recovery School District back to the local school system

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Require signatures of parents of at least a majority of the students who have been enrolled in the school for at least two years instead of signatures of parents of students attending the school.
2. Make technical changes.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Require that the rules and regulations to be developed and adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for implementation of the parent petition process be developed and adopted by Oct. 1, 2013.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law (R.S. 17:10.5) provides for the transfer to the Recovery School District (RSD), subject to approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), of schools that have been labeled academically unacceptable for four consecutive years or failed schools for which the local school board has failed to present or implement an acceptable reconstitution plan under the school accountability program. Provides that the RSD shall retain jurisdiction of any school transferred to it for not less than five school years. Requires the RSD to report to BESE at least nine months prior to the expiration of the transfer period as to whether the school should continue in the RSD under certain conditions, close, or be returned to the transferring school system. Provides that the RSD shall retain the school for an additional five-year period upon BESE approval unless a lesser time is adopted by BESE.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that parents of students attending a school that is directly operated by the RSD and that has not been identified for conversion to a charter school pursuant to a charter contract between BESE and a non-profit charter organization and had a letter grade of "D" or "F" for five consecutive years while under the jurisdiction of the RSD may submit a petition to BESE requesting that the school be returned to the local school system from which it was transferred. Requires approval of BESE and the respective local school board for such transfer to occur. Requires signatures of parents representing at least a majority of the students who have been enrolled in the school for at least two years. Requires BESE to adopt rules and regulations by Oct. 1, 2013, for implementation of the petition process, including a petition format and submission process, signature validation procedures, timelines, and student transfer procedures. Prohibits the use of local school and school district resources to support or oppose any effort by parents to gather signatures or sign petitions.

(Adds R.S. 17:10.5(G))