

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 867

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS: Provides relative to textbooks and other instructional materials for elementary and secondary schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:7(4), 22(2)(e), 1964(D)(9), 1970.4(D)(2)(i), and
3 1970.24(E)(1)(h), to enact R.S. 17:351.1 and 355, and to repeal R.S. 17:8 through
4 8.3, 351, 352, and 415.1 and R.S. 36:651(G)(1), relative to textbooks and other
5 instructional materials for use in elementary and secondary schools; to provide
6 relative to the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary
7 and Secondary Education, the state Department of Education, and public school
8 governing authorities; to provide relative to funding; to provide relative to the review
9 of textbooks and other instructional materials by the state Department of Education,
10 parents, and the public; to provide relative to contracts with publishers for the
11 purchase, lease, and use of textbooks and other instructional materials; to provide
12 relative to depositories for textbooks and other instructional materials; to provide
13 relative to rules and regulations; and to provide for related matters.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(4), 22(2)(e), 1964(D)(9), 1970.4(D)(2)(i), and 1970.24(E)(1)(h)
16 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:351.1 and 355 are hereby enacted to read as
17 follows:

18 §7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

19 In addition to the authorities granted by R.S. 17:6 and any powers, duties, and
20 responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

21 * * *

1 (3) The state board shall not limit the amount or percentage of state or local
2 funds the governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may
3 expend on the purchase or acquisition of textbooks and other instructional materials.

4 B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
5 establish a transparent, digital process whereby the state Department of Education
6 shall review textbooks and other instructional materials in the core subject areas of
7 English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies and determine the
8 degree to which each aligns with state content standards. The department may review
9 textbooks and instructional materials in other subject matter areas as deemed
10 necessary or upon request of a public school governing authority.

11 (2) The digital review process for textbooks and other instructional materials
12 submitted to the department for review shall be conducted entirely online. Every
13 aspect of the digital review process, including the textbooks and instructional
14 materials under review and any and all comments submitted by reviewers, parents
15 and other members of the public, and publishers and other content providers, shall
16 be posted online and made readily accessible by all interested parties.

17 (3) The digital review process shall, at a minimum, provide for the
18 following:

19 (a) Guidelines and timelines for the submission, review, comment, and
20 evaluation of textbooks and other instructional materials.

21 (b) Establishment of review panels composed of educators and content
22 experts who have knowledge of curriculum and the subject matter under
23 consideration.

24 (c) Evaluation criteria and procedures to determine the extent to which
25 textbooks and instructional materials submitted for review align with state content
26 standards.

27 (d)(i) The opportunity for parents and the public to view and submit
28 comments on all textbooks and instructional materials under review. A read-only

1 copy of all textbooks and instructional materials under review shall be made readily
2 available online for this purpose.

3 (ii) The opportunity for publishers and other content providers to submit
4 comments in response to any review committee evaluation.

5 (iii) All comments submitted in relation to a reviewed textbook or
6 instructional material shall be posted online for ready access by any interested party.

7 (e) A requirement that all textbooks and instructional materials submitted for
8 review be supplied in an electronic format that meets the National Instructional
9 Materials Accessibility Standards and can be converted into specialized formats for
10 children with disabilities and from which Braille and large-print textbooks can be
11 produced for blind and visually impaired students.

12 (4)(a) The Department of Education shall provide the governing authority
13 of each public elementary and secondary school with a list of all textbooks and other
14 instructional materials reviewed by the department which includes information
15 indicating the degree to which each aligns with state content standards. Such list
16 shall also be posted online.

17 (b) The list of reviewed textbooks and other instructional materials shall
18 include textbooks and instructional materials for each core subject at each grade
19 level that are fully aligned with state content standards.

20 (c) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as prohibiting a public school
21 or school district from purchasing or otherwise acquiring textbooks and instructional
22 materials that are not included in the list of reviewed textbooks and instructional
23 materials prepared by the Department of Education, provided the use of such
24 textbooks and instructional materials is not prohibited by law or state board
25 regulation.

26 C.(1) The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary
27 school shall adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks and
28 other instructional materials that sufficiently support the needs of all students in
29 meeting state content standards.

1 (2) The purchase and use of electronic textbooks, instructional materials, and
2 other media or content shall be maximized to the greatest extent possible.

3 (3)(a) Such policies and regulations shall provide for the establishment of
4 review committees composed of teachers, educators, parents, and other educational
5 stakeholders who have interest in or knowledge of curriculum and the subject matter
6 under consideration.

7 (b) Parents and other members of the public shall be afforded the opportunity
8 to review and provide input relative to the textbooks instructional materials under
9 consideration prior to final adoption. Copies of all textbooks and instructional
10 materials under consideration shall be made available to the public.

11 (c) Review committee evaluations and all public comments submitted for
12 each textbook and instructional material under review shall be posted on the school
13 governing authority's website.

14 (4) Textbooks and instructional materials adopted for use in public
15 elementary and secondary schools shall accurately reflect the contributions and
16 achievements of people of differing races and promote an understanding of the
17 history and values of the people of the United States and Louisiana, including the
18 free enterprise system, private property, constitutional liberties, democratic values,
19 and traditional standards of moral values.

20 (5) The governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may
21 establish the price and sell any textbook or library book no longer in use to any
22 person or entity for private use.

23 D.(1) The Department of Education shall support public school governing
24 authorities in achieving maximum cost efficiencies in the purchase and acquisition
25 of textbooks and other instructional materials by providing for bulk purchasing
26 through state contracts, whenever possible and feasible.

27 (2) The governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may
28 purchase textbooks and other instructional materials through a state contract or may
29 contract directly with a publisher or other content provider.

1 (3) Each contract between the state or the governing authority of a public
2 elementary and secondary school and a publisher or other content provider for
3 textbooks and instructional materials shall:

4 (a) Be awarded on a competitive basis in accordance with applicable state
5 law.

6 (b) Provide that the publisher, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer shall not
7 charge the governing authority of a public school a purchase price, rental fee, or
8 other fee for the purchase, lease, or use of a textbook or instructional material that
9 exceeds the lowest price or fee charged to a school governing authority in any other
10 state for the same textbook or instructional material.

11 E.(1) The state Department of Education shall provide for a central
12 depository for textbooks and other instructional materials which are aligned to state
13 content standards to facilitate the purchase and distribution of textbooks and
14 instructional materials.

15 (2) The depository shall provide for the procurement of textbooks and
16 instructional materials in all formats needed to support student learning, including
17 Braille, large print, digital and print.

18 (3) The ordering system established for the depository shall include the
19 reviews conducted pursuant to Subsection B of this Section and any comments
20 submitted by parents, the public, and publishers and other content providers.

21 * * *

22 §355. Rules

23 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate
24 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Part in accordance with the
25 Administrative Procedure Act.

26 * * *

27 §1964. Board of directors; creation; membership; terms; powers, duties, and
28 functions; voting; compensation

29 * * *

1 D. In addition to the authorities granted herein and any powers, duties, and
2 responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

3 * * *

4 (9) Prescribe and select for use in the school free ~~school books~~ textbooks and
5 other materials of instruction for children enrolled in the school and programs under
6 its jurisdiction for which the legislature provides funds. ~~Wherever practical, the~~
7 ~~board shall select the same school books and other materials of instruction as are~~
8 ~~adopted by the state board.~~

9 * * *

10 §1970.4. School board; creation; membership; terms; powers and duties; voting;
11 compensation

12 * * *

13 D.

14 * * *

15 (2) The board shall:

16 * * *

17 (i) Prescribe and select for use in the ~~school books~~ textbooks and other
18 materials of instruction for children enrolled in the school and programs under its
19 jurisdiction for which the legislature provides funds. ~~Wherever practical, the board~~
20 ~~shall select the same school books and other materials of instruction as are adopted~~
21 ~~by the state board.~~

22 * * *

23 §1970.24. Board of directors; creation; membership; terms; powers and duties;
24 voting; compensation

25 * * *

26 E.(1) The board shall perform or direct the performance of all of the
27 following in compliance with the provisions of this Part, including the expression of
28 the intentions of the legislature:

29 * * *

1 (h) Prescribe and select for use in the center free ~~school books~~ textbooks and
 2 other materials of instruction for children enrolled in the center and programs under
 3 its jurisdiction for which the legislature provides funds. ~~Wherever practical, the~~
 4 ~~board shall select the same school books and other materials of instruction as are~~
 5 ~~adopted by the state board.~~

6 * * *

7 Section 2. R.S. 17:8 through 8.3, 351, 352, and 415.1 and R.S. 36:651(G)(1) are
 8 hereby repealed in their entirety.

9 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 10 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 11 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 12 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 13 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Hoffmann

HB No. 867

Abstract: Provides relative to textbooks and other instructional materials for elementary and secondary schools; shifts responsibility for selecting textbooks from the state to the local level.

Proposed law significantly revises the procedures established in present law for the adoption, procurement, and distribution of textbooks and other instructional materials for use in elementary and secondary schools as follows:

BESE's role in the textbook selection and distribution process

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to prescribe and adopt school books and other materials of instruction, which it shall supply free of charge to the children of this state at the elementary and secondary levels out of funds appropriated therefor by the legislature in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 13(A) of the Constitution of La.

Proposed law deletes the requirement that BESE adopt textbooks and instructional materials for use in the public schools and instead requires BESE to prescribe a process for the review, adoption, procurement, and distribution of free textbooks and other materials of instruction by the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school, including special schools.

Role of the state Dept. of Education in preparation of lists and reviews of textbooks

Present law requires the state superintendent of education to prepare the list of free school books and other materials of instruction for BESE adoption.

Proposed law deletes this requirement and instead requires the state superintendent to administer the process prescribed by BESE for the review, adoption, procurement, and distribution of free textbooks and other instructional materials and to prepare lists of state reviewed textbooks and instructional materials.

Proposed law requires BESE to establish a transparent, digital process whereby the state Department of Education (DOE) shall review textbooks and other instructional materials as follows:

- (1) Requires DOE to review textbooks and instructional materials in the core subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies and determine the degree to which each aligns with state content standards.
- (2) Authorizes the DOE to review textbooks and instructional materials in other subject matter areas as deemed necessary or upon request of a public school governing authority.
- (3) Requires the digital review process for textbooks and other instructional materials submitted to the DOE for review to be conducted entirely online. Provides that every aspect of the digital review process, including the textbooks and instructional materials under review and any and all comments submitted by reviewers, parents and other members of the public, and publishers and other content providers, shall be posted online and readily accessible by all interested parties.
- (4) Provides that the digital review process shall, at a minimum, provide for the following:
 - (a) Guidelines and timelines for the submission, review, comment, and evaluation of textbooks and other instructional materials.
 - (b) Establishment of review panels composed of educators and content experts who have knowledge of curriculum and the subject matter under consideration.
 - (c) Evaluation criteria and procedures to determine the extent to which textbooks and instructional materials submitted for review align with state content standards.
 - (d) Provide the opportunity for parents and the public to view and submit comments on all textbooks and instructional materials under review. Further provides that a read-only copy of all textbooks and instructional materials under review shall be made readily available online for this purpose.
 - (e) Provide the opportunity for publishers and other content providers to submit comments in response to any review committee evaluation.
 - (f) Requires that all comments submitted in relation to a reviewed textbook or instructional material shall be posted online for ready access by any interested party.
 - (g) Requires that all textbooks and instructional materials submitted for review be supplied in an electronic format that meets the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards and can be converted into specialized

formats for children with disabilities and from which Braille and large-print textbooks can be produced for blind and visually impaired students.

- (5) Requires DOE to provide the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school with a list of all textbooks and other instructional materials reviewed by the department which includes information indicating the degree to which each aligns with state content standards. Such list shall also be posted online.
- (6) Requires that the list of reviewed textbooks and other instructional materials prepared by DOE include textbooks and instructional materials for each core subject at each grade level that are fully aligned with state content standards.

Proposed law authorizes each public school governing authority to purchase textbooks and other instructional materials of their own choosing. Further provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed as prohibiting a public school or school district from purchasing or otherwise acquiring textbooks and instructional materials that are not included in the list of reviewed textbooks and instructional materials prepared by the Department of Education, provided the use of such textbooks and instructional materials is not prohibited by law or state board regulation.

Role and responsibilities of public school governing authorities

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public school to adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks and other instructional materials that sufficiently support the needs of all students in meeting state content standards as follows:

- (1) Require that the purchase and use of electronic textbooks, instructional materials, and other media or content shall be maximized to the greatest extent possible.
- (2) Provide for the establishment of review committees composed of teachers, educators, parents, and other educational stakeholders who have interest in or knowledge of curriculum and the subject matter under consideration.
- (3) Afford parents and other members of the public the opportunity to review and provide input relative to the textbooks and instructional materials under consideration prior to final adoption. Copies of all textbooks and instructional materials under consideration shall be made available to the public.
- (4) Review committee evaluations and all public comments submitted for each textbook and instructional material under review shall be posted on the school governing authority's website.

Present law requires that textbooks and instructional materials adopted for use in public elementary and secondary schools shall accurately reflect the contributions and achievements of people of differing races and promote an understanding of the history and values of the people of the U.S. and La., including the free enterprise system, private property, constitutional liberties, democratic values, and traditional standards of moral values. Proposed law retains these provisions.

Present law authorizes the governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may establish the price and sell any textbook or library book no longer in use to any person or entity for private use. Proposed law retains this provision.

Present law authorizes the La. School for Math, Science, and the Arts, the Louis Armstrong High School for the Arts, and the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts the authority to prescribe and select textbooks and instructional materials for the children enrolled in each respective school but directed that, wherever practical, the school's board shall select

textbooks and materials of instruction as adopted by BESE. Proposed law deletes the preference for BESE adopted textbooks and materials.

Review and inspection of textbooks by the public

Present law requires that textbooks and materials be made available for public inspection at DOE during regular office hours. Provides for textbook review procedures, including citizen participation, the composition of textbook committees, and the placement of proposed textbooks in various public library branches throughout the state.

Proposed law repeals present law but provides that the public shall have the opportunity to view textbooks and instructional materials under review by DOE and school governing authorities and be afforded the opportunity to submit comments during the review process and prior to final adoption for use by a public school governing authority.

Purchase of textbooks by public school governing authorities; contracts with publishers

Present law encourages school boards to maximize the availability and accessibility of electronic versions of textbooks and other instructional materials and authorizes their purchase. Prohibits BESE from restricting the amount or percentage of state or local funds a board may expend on them.

Proposed law essentially retains present law and prohibits BESE from restricting the amount or percentage of state or local funds a public school governing authority may expend on the purchase or acquisition of textbooks and instructional materials in general.

Present law requires each contract with a publisher for school books to be awarded on a competitive basis and provides that such contracts contain specific provisions relative to termination rights, price controls and stability. Further requires that at least 80% of the books purchased be printed in La., provided 5,000 or more copies of such book are purchased in a single year.

Proposed law retains the requirement in present law for public bids, but otherwise repeals present law and instead provides as follows:

- (1) Requires DOE to support public school governing authorities in achieving maximum cost efficiencies in the purchase and acquisition of textbooks and other instructional materials by providing for bulk purchasing through state contracts, whenever possible and feasible.
- (2) Provides public school governing authorities may purchase textbooks and other instructional materials through a state contract or may contract directly with a publisher or other content provider.
- (3) Provides that each contract between the state or the governing authority of a public elementary and secondary school and a publisher or other content provider for textbooks and instructional materials shall:
 - (a) Be awarded on a competitive basis in accordance with applicable state law.
 - (b) Provide that the publisher, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer shall not charge the governing authority of a public school a purchase price, rental fee, or other fee for the purchase, lease, or use of a textbook or instructional material that exceeds the lowest price or fee charged to a school governing authority in any other state for the same textbook or instructional material.

Textbook depository

Present law designates DOE as the state depository for school books and authorizes the state superintendent to administer this function, including the authority to contract with a public or private agency to act as the depository.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead requires DOE to provide for a central depository for textbooks and other instructional materials which are aligned to state content standards to facilitate the purchase and distribution of textbooks and instructional materials. Requires the depository to provide for the procurement of textbooks and instructional materials in all formats needed to support student learning, including Braille, large print, digital and print. Further provides that the ordering system established for the depository shall include the reviews conducted pursuant to proposed law and any comments submitted by parents, the public, and publishers and other content providers.

Sale of school books no longer in use

Present law authorizes a school board, with prior BESE approval, to sell any textbook or library book no longer in use to any person or entity for private use at a fee established by the school board. Limits use of funds from such sale to textbook or library book purchases. Proposed law deletes requirement for prior BESE approval and the limitation on the specific use of sale funds.

Textbooks for home study students

Present law requires BESE to establish rules and procedures for supplying school books and other materials of instruction for children participating in approved home study programs when available. Proposed law specifies that such materials shall be supplied through the local public school governing authority.

Miscellaneous provisions repealed by proposed lawPresent law:

- (1) Authorizes local school boards to use state funds to purchase computer hardware.
- (2) Provides relative to the donation and disposal of school books no longer in use.
- (3) Requires BESE to prescribe and adopt and exercise supervision and control over school books and other learning materials for postsecondary and vocational-technical schools and programs.

Proposed law repeals present law in (1) through (3) above.

Proposed law requires BESE to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:7(4), 22(2)(e), 1964(D)(9), 1970.4(D)(2)(i), and 1970.24(E)(1)(h); Adds R.S. 17:351.1 and 355; Repeals R.S. 17:8-8.3, 351, 352, and 415.1 and R.S. 36:651(G)(1))