

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

---

## DIGEST

LaFleur (SB 558)

Present law provides for the "Immersion School Choice Law" as follows:

- (1) Authorizes a local public school board to establish a foreign language immersion program in any school under its jurisdiction. The program shall be open to the enrollment of any student who resides within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district.
- (2) Provides that, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a local public school board, if requested in writing signed by the parent or legal guardian of at least 25 students enrolled in kindergarten who reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district, shall establish a foreign language immersion program for such students if specified other criteria are met.
- (3) Provides that such program shall be continued as long as at least 20 students remain enrolled in the program.
- (4) Requires the local school board to ensure that any foreign language immersion program created pursuant to present law is designated as a Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program in accordance with present law.
- (5) Provides that a local school board shall not be required to provide transportation to any student enrolled in a foreign language immersion program established that is located outside the attendance zone of the school the student would otherwise attend if providing such transportation would result in additional transportation costs to the school system.

Proposed law adds provisions that require, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a local public school board, if requested in writing signed by the parents or legal guardians of at least 25 students to be enrolled in kindergarten or first grade, to establish a foreign language immersion program for such students if specified other criteria are met. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law prohibits local school boards from denying enrollment in a foreign language immersion program to any student who resides within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district and who applies to enroll in such a program by no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year prior to such enrollment.

Proposed law provides that, for a foreign language immersion program established prior to the 2012-2013 school year, the requirements of present law that require enrollment of 20 students for continuation of the program and that require enrollment of timely applicants shall apply. Further provides that the local school board shall ensure that such program is designated as a Certified

Foreign Language Immersion Program by BESE in accordance with present law (R.S. 17:273.2) by not later than July 1, 2017.

Proposed law provides that nothing in present law and proposed law shall contravene any order of a court of competent jurisdiction providing for the assignment of pupils within the school system.

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(a)(intro para); adds R.S. 17:273.3(E), (F), and (G))