

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1205

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS: Provides relative to textbooks and other instructional materials

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:7(4), 8(A)(1)(a), (B), and (C), 22(2)(e), 351(A), (B), and
3 (C)(1), and 352(A)(1), relative to textbooks and other instructional materials for use
4 in elementary and secondary schools; to provide relative to textbooks and other
5 instructional materials prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
6 Education; to provide relative to rules and regulations; to provide relative to
7 technical corrections; to provide relative to terminology; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(4), 8(A)(1)(a), (B), and (C), 22(2)(e), 351(A), (B), and (C)(1),
11 and 352(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

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

15 * * *

16 (4) Prescribe and adopt free ~~school books~~ textbooks and other materials of
17 instruction for the children of this state at the elementary and secondary levels and
18 at all other schools and programs under its jurisdiction for which the legislature
19 provides funds, in accordance with law.

20 * * *

1 §22. Superintendent; functions and duties

2 The superintendent shall:

3 * * *

4 (2) Provide the staff services for the board. In that regard the superintendent
5 shall:

6 * * *

7 (e) Prepare the list of free ~~school books~~ textbooks and other materials of
8 instruction for adoption by the board.

9 * * *

10 PART IV. FREE ~~SCHOOL BOOKS~~ TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS OF
11 INSTRUCTION

12 §351. Free ~~school books~~ textbooks and other materials of instruction

13 A.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
14 prescribe and adopt ~~school books~~ textbooks and other materials of instruction, which
15 it shall supply without charge to the children of this state at the elementary and
16 secondary levels out of funds appropriated therefor by the legislature in accordance
17 with the requirements of Article VIII, Section 13(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

18 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe
19 and adopt those ~~school books~~ textbooks and other materials of instruction ~~which that~~
20 accurately reflect the contributions and achievements of people of differing races.

21 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe
22 and adopt those ~~school books~~ textbooks and other materials of instruction ~~which that~~
23 promote an understanding of the history and values of the people of the United States
24 and Louisiana, including the free enterprise system, private property, constitutional
25 liberties, democratic values, and traditional standards of moral values.

26 B. The board also shall prescribe and supply ~~school books~~ textbooks and
27 other materials of instruction for use by students attending vocational-technical
28 schools and programs under the jurisdiction of the board.

- (3) Requires that school books and instructional materials adopted 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.
- (4) Requires BESE or the state Dept. of Education to assure that all school books and materials of instruction submitted for state adoption are thoroughly screened, reviewed, and approved as to their content by BESE and the local school board.
- (5) Requires BESE to adopt rules and regulations governing the use of school books and other instructional materials by schools, school boards, and local superintendents.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Requires that contracts with publishers for school books be awarded on a competitive basis and provides that such contracts contain specific provisions relative to termination rights, price controls and stability.

Proposed law refers to "textbooks" rather than "school books" or "schoolbooks" and otherwise retains all of the above present law. Also changes references to "school boards" to "public school governing authorities".

(Amends R.S. 17:7(4), 8(A)(1)(a), (B), and (C), 22(2)(e), 351(A), (B), and (C)(1), and 352(A)(1))