HLS 14RS-2350 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2014

1

HOUSE BILL NO. 1228

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Provides relative to a program for educating students with exceptionalities

AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(a) and to repeal R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(c) and 3 Section 2 of Act No. 424 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature, relative to 4 the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities; to provide 5 relative to student eligibility criteria for participation in the program; to provide for 6 continuation of the program; and to provide for related matters. 7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 8 Section 1. R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as 9 follows: 10 §4031. School choice program; students with exceptionalities; establishment; 11 purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; educational 12 certificates; administration; implementation; reporting 13 14 B. 15 16 (2) Any student who meets all of the following criteria is an eligible student: 17 (a) The student has been evaluated by a local education agency as defined in R.S. 17:1942, is determined to be in need of services for autism, a mental 18 19 disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health impairment, 20 specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury, and has one of the following

Page 1 of 2

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1 plans: an Individual Education Plan, or a services plan in accordance with Title 34 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 300.37, or a plan that is created by the 3 nonpublic school that the student will attend and that clearly identifies the services 4 provided by the school and specifies how those services adequately address the 5 student's needs. 6 7 Section 2. R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(c) and Section 2 of Act No. 424 of the 2012 Regular 8

Session of the Legislature are hereby repealed in their entirety.

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)]

Foil HB No. 1228

Abstract: Provides relative to student eligibility criteria for participation in a program for funding education of certain students with exceptionalities and repeals provision for sunset of the program.

Present law establishes a program, known as the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities, which provides for use of public funds to pay a portion of the tuition at nonpublic schools that specifically address the needs of such students. Present <u>law</u> provides for the establishment of the program in each parish having a population in excess of 190,000 persons.

<u>Present law</u> provides for student eligibility criteria for participation in the program. Requires that the student be evaluated by a local education agency, be determined to be in need of services for autism, a mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health impairment, specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury, and have an Individual Education Plan or a services plan in accordance with Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 300.37. Specifically excludes students who are deemed gifted or talented.

Proposed law adds a plan created by the nonpublic school that the student will attend that clearly identifies the services provided by the nonpublic school and how those services adequately address the student's needs as an alternative to the plans required by present law. Repeals present law that excludes gifted or talented students; otherwise retains present law.

Present law (Section 2 of Act 424 of 2012 R.S.) terminates certain provisions of present law providing for the program, including provision establishing the program, at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Proposed law repeals this termination.

(Amends R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(a); Repeals R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(c) and Section 2 of Act 424 of the 2012 R.S.)