
DIGEST

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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 law provides for the establishment of the program in each parish having a population in excess of 190,000 persons.

Present law 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.)