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DIGEST

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Nevers

SB No. 125

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to approve a state action plan for a nonmandatory comprehensive agricultural education program for kindergarten through grade 12. Further provides for the instructional strategies, guidelines, instructional materials, and professional development activities to be included in the plan. Provides that the plan shall be implemented upon appropriation of funds for that purpose. Proposed law deletes the requirement that the plan be implemented upon the appropriation of funds and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law creates the Agricultural Education Commission. Provides for the purpose, membership, compensation, and meetings of the commission. Provides for the commission's duties as follows:

- (1) Assist the state superintendent of education in the ongoing evaluation of agricultural education programs in elementary and secondary schools.
- (2) Review the state action plan for agricultural education and make recommendations related thereto.
- (3) Review the state's agricultural education delivery system and provide advice and guidance related thereto.
- (4) Assist in the development of partnerships and alliances with agriculture-related industries and other stakeholders.
- (5) Provide advice and support in the development and creation of certain agriculture immersion programs in elementary and secondary schools.

Proposed law requires BESE to create a pilot program to provide for the establishment of agricultural education immersion programs that provide students with a high quality educational program that integrates agriculture-related instruction throughout all disciplines included in the curriculum. Further provides that agricultural immersion programs shall:

- (1) Provide an articulated, sequentially structured, total agricultural education program that prepares students for entrance into a postsecondary educational program or other certification that leads to a career.
- (2) Provide each student with an academically rigorous curricula, work-based learning experiences, and student leadership opportunities within an agricultural context.
- (3) Integrate agriculture throughout the curriculum in a systematic manner that prepares students for successful careers in a wide array of agriculture-related industries and occupations, including food and crop science, soil science, animal science, fiber production, farm production, renewable resources, agricultural research, and agribusiness management and marketing.
- (4) Provide dual-enrollment opportunities that allow students to earn college credit hours that can be transferred to a postsecondary institution and industry-based certifications that qualify a student for employment upon graduation from high school.

Proposed law provides that the implementation of the agricultural education immersion pilot program shall be implemented as expeditiously as possible through any source of funding made available for that purpose.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:185.4; Adds R.S. 17:185.5 and 185.6 and R.S. 36:651(G)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds to the commission membership the presidents of the La. Assoc. of Educators and the La. Federation of Teachers or their designees.
2. In the list of commission members, changes references to the "Louisiana Future Farmers of America Association" to the "Louisiana FFA".