

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 968 by Representative Leger

STUDENTS: Provides relative to dropout prevention and recovery

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds requirement that a student enrolled in a dropout recovery program be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school system offering the program.
2. Deletes proposed law requirements that monthly participation in a dropout recovery program be reported for funding purposes to the state Dept. of Education on or before the 10th day of the following month and that funding for such programs be provided through the minimum foundation program formula (MFP).
3. Adds requirement that contracts entered into by local public school boards for the provision of student dropout recovery programs include requirements for the protection of all personally identifiable student information that comply with all applicable state and federal law and regulations.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law provides that each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school students may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students. Provides that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's prescribed standards and achievement testing requirements apply to dropout recovery programs.

Provides that the dropout recovery programs shall make available appropriate and sufficient supports for students, including tutoring, career counseling and college counseling, comply with federal and state laws governing students with disabilities, and meet state requirements for high school graduation.

Provides that each eligible student enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have an individual graduation plan developed by the student's assigned academic coach. Specifies certain elements to be included in the plan.

Requires that a student enrolled in a dropout recovery program be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school system offering the program. Requires that monthly participation calculations shall include specified components.

Authorizes school districts and charter schools to contract with an educational management organization to provide a dropout recovery program and if so, shall ensure that the educational management organization is accredited by a regional accrediting body, that teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a current teaching license and that teachers of core subjects are highly qualified in those subjects, and that the organization has provided one or more dropout recovery programs for at least two years.

Provides that dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative programs. Further provides that entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may conduct outreach to encourage students who are not enrolled in a school district or charter school in this state to return to school. Prohibits entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs from conducting advertising or marketing campaigns directed at students who are enrolled in a school district or charter school, or undertake any other activity that

encourages students who are enrolled in a school district or charter school to stop attending school in order to qualify for a dropout recovery program. Requires that contracts entered into by local public school boards for the provision of student dropout recovery programs include requirements for the protection of all personally identifiable student information that comply with all applicable state and federal law and regulations.

Defines "eligible student", "satisfactory monthly progress", and "academic coach" for purposes of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:221.4(A); Adds R.S. 17:221.6)