

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 653

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, REYNOLDS, AND HENRY BURNS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to exemptions from the requirements for school instructional time under certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:154.1(A)(3), relative to minimum requirements for  
3 instructional time; to provide for applicability of such requirements to certain public  
4 schools and school systems under certain circumstances; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:154.1(A)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §154.1. Length of school day and year; requirements

9 A.

10 \* \* \*

11 (3) ~~Effective for the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the~~ The  
12 provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not be applicable to any city,  
13 parish, or other local public school or school system which cannot meet the  
14 minimum requirements for instructional time as provided in Paragraph (1) of this  
15 Subsection for any given school year due to school closure, ~~when such school~~  
16 ~~closure occurs within the last thirty calendar days of the school year, for reasons of~~  
17 ~~natural catastrophe or disaster as certified by the state superintendent of education~~  
18 ~~and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Education. Such certification~~  
19 ~~and approval shall be in accordance with criteria established pursuant to rules and~~  
20 ~~regulations adopted by the board for such purpose. Such rules and regulations shall~~  
21 ~~include but shall not be limited to a requirement that any city, parish, or other local~~

1       ~~public school or school system not able to meet the requirements of Paragraph (1)~~  
 2       ~~of this Subsection shall submit to the state superintendent of education in accordance~~  
 3       ~~with time lines established by the board documented information explaining the~~  
 4       ~~reasons why such school or school system cannot meet such requirements and any~~  
 5       ~~efforts made by the school or school system toward meeting the requirements. which~~  
 6       ~~result in a declaration of a state of emergency by the governor.~~ The provisions of  
 7       this Paragraph shall apply to an entire school system only if every school within the  
 8       system is forced to close for reasons as provided in this Paragraph.

\*       \*       \*

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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)]

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HB 653 Original

2015 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the minimum requirements for instructional time in schools under certain circumstances which result in a state of emergency declared by the governor.

Present law provides that the minimum school day for grades one through 12 in every public school shall consist of 360 minutes of instructional time and the minimum school year shall consist of 177 days of instruction. Authorizes school governing authorities to modify the total number of instructional minutes per day and instructional days per year under certain conditions, provided the same minimum total instructional minutes for the year is not changed.

Present law provides that such provisions shall not be applicable to any city, parish, or other local public school or school system which cannot meet the minimum requirements for any given school year due to school closure for reasons of natural catastrophe or disaster as certified by the state superintendent of education and approved by BESE in accordance with criteria established by the board for such purpose. Provides for the requirement of documented information explaining the reasons why such school or school system cannot meet minimum requirements and efforts made by the school or school system toward meeting the requirements. Present law applies to an entire school system only if every school within the system is forced to close.

Proposed law provides instead that the minimum requirements for instructional time for any given school year shall not apply to any public school or school system when such school or system cannot meet the requirements because of a natural catastrophe or disaster that results in a declaration of a state of emergency by the governor. Proposed law retains present law with respect to the applicability of such requirements to an entire school system if every school in the system is forced to close. Removes requirements for documented explanations.

(Amends R.S. 17:154.1(A)(3))