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## DIGEST

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HB 320 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Woodruff

**Abstract:** Exempts students in dropout recovery programs from certain requirements applicable to minors who withdraw from school before high school graduation and removes certain reporting requirements pertaining to dropout recovery programs.

Present law requires minors who withdraw from school prior to high school graduation, within 120 days of leaving, to either reenroll in school and make progress toward completing graduation requirements, enroll in a high school equivalency diploma program and make progress toward completing program requirements, or enlist in the La. National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces, with a commitment for at least two years of service, and earn a high school equivalency diploma during the service period. Proposed law exempts minors participating in a dropout recovery program from this requirement.

Present law allows each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school students to offer a dropout recovery program. Proposed law adds that such districts and schools should maximize the use of Title 1 and at-risk funds through the minimum foundation program (MFP) to establish such programs.

Present law requires that a student enrolled in such a program be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school district offering the program. Proposed law adds that such students shall be recorded on a monthly basis as program participants.

Present law requires monthly reporting by schools and school systems to the state Dept. of Education and specifies information to be included in the reports. Proposed law requires that such information be recorded monthly rather than reported to DOE monthly.

Proposed law retains present law with respect to other provisions of the dropout recovery program and clarifies certain terms.

(Amends R.S. 17:221.4(A) and (C)(intro. para.) and 221.6(A), (E)(intro. para.), and (I)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 17:221.6(I)(4))

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Retain present law provision authorizing all schools and school districts providing

instruction to high school students to offer dropout recovery programs and remove proposed law provision that would have required the offering of such programs in schools with low graduation rates.

2. Instead of requiring the funding of students in such programs as provided in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, provide that school districts and charter schools should maximize the use of Title 1 and at-risk funds through the MFP to establish such programs.