

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Requires charter school teachers to meet same certification requirements as other public school teachers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3991(C)(6) and to enact R.S. 17:3996(A)(18), relative to  
3 charter schools; to provide relative to the employment of charter school teachers and  
4 other employees; to provide relative to eligibility for such employment; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3991(C)(6) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 17:3996(A)18) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3991. Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation

10 \* \* \*

11 C. A charter school shall:

12 \* \* \*

13 (6) Employ ~~instructional staff~~ teachers and other employees. A charter  
14 school shall employ only persons who have at least a baccalaureate degree meet all  
15 eligibility requirements for the employment of those holding equivalent positions in  
16 public schools operated by school boards as such requirements are provided by law  
17 and in rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary and  
18 Secondary Education. ~~and who~~ All charter school employees shall be ~~are~~ subject to

1 all provisions of state law relative to background checks applicable to the  
2 employment of public school personnel.

3 \* \* \*

4 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

5 A. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
6 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
7 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
8 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
9 exempt from all rules and regulations of the state board and those of any local school  
10 board that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and  
11 employees except for the following rules and regulations otherwise applicable to  
12 public schools regarding:

13 \* \* \*

14 (18) Employment eligibility requirements for teachers and other school  
15 employees.

16 \* \* \*

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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**Abstract:** Subjects charter schools to the same State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rules and regulations as traditional public schools with respect to employment eligibility requirements for teachers and other school employees.

Present law requires charter schools to employ instructional staff who have at least a baccalaureate degree. Proposed law instead requires charter schools to employ only those teachers and other school employees who meet all eligibility requirements of those holding equivalent positions in traditional public schools as provided by law and in rules and regulations adopted by BESE.

Present law provides that all provisions of state law relative to background checks applicable to the employment of public school personnel also apply to charter school instructional staff. Proposed law broadens the application of this requirement so that it covers all charter school employees.

Present law generally exempts charter schools from all rules and regulations applicable to public schools. Specifies several exceptions to this general exemption. Proposed law adds employment eligibility requirements for teachers and other school employees to this list of exceptions to the general exemption.

(Amends R.S. 17:3991(C)(6); Adds R.S. 17:3996(A)(18))