
DIGEST

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HB 443 Original

2016 Regular Session

Jones

Abstract: Provides for each local public school district to have a president elected by the district's qualified electors and provides that he shall appoint the local superintendent and prepare and submit the district budget to the school board.

Election of school district president / district / terms

Proposed law provides for the election of a president of each local public school district at the time of the district's regular school board elections. Provides that he shall serve a four-year term concurrent with board members and that a person who has served as president for more than 1½ terms in two consecutive terms shall not be elected president for the succeeding term.

Qualifications

Present law requires that each parish school board member be able to read and write and, at the time of qualification for office, be at least 18, have resided in the state for the preceding two years, and have been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the parish, ward, or district from which he seeks election. Proposed law applies these qualifications to candidates for the office of school district president.

Powers and duties

Proposed law provides that the district president shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Be deemed to be the "chief executive or administrative officer" of the school board pursuant to all present law requirements of the La. Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq., including requirements relative to budget preparation.
- (2) Other powers and duties as prescribed by the school board.
- (3) Appoint the local superintendent, as follows:

Present law requires school boards to elect a local superintendent by a favorable vote of the majority of the school board membership. Proposed law instead requires that the school district president appoint the superintendent; subjects such appointment to approval by this same vote of the board.

Present law grants certain authorities relative to the superintendent's employment to the board,

including terminating and renewing his contract. Proposed law grants these powers instead to the district president, subject to the approval of a majority of the board.

Present law allows the board to remove the superintendent prior to the expiration of his contract with a super-majority vote. Proposed law grants this authority to the district president but provides that his removal is subject to approval by a super-majority vote of the board.

Present law further requires local school boards, when choosing a local superintendent of schools, to select a leader who shall prioritize student achievement and act in the best interests of all students enrolled in schools under the board's jurisdiction. Proposed law instead makes this requirement applicable to the district president and his appointment of the superintendent.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article VIII of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. ___ of this 2016 R.S. of the Legislature is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 17:54(B)(1)(a) and (b)(i)(aa) and (cc), (ii)(bb), and (iv) and (3) and (C) and 81(A)(1); Adds R.S. 17:54.1)