

ACT No. 204

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 734

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRASS AND FREEMAN

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3129.6(B), to enact Chapter 18-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana
3 Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:2941 through 2944, and to
4 repeal R.S. 17:2922.1(C) and 2929, relative to dual enrollment; to provide for a
5 statewide dual enrollment program; to provide for funding; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3129.6(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and Chapter 18-A
9 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:2941 through
10 2944, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 Chapter 18-A. DUAL ENROLLMENT

12 §2941. Legislative findings

13 The Legislature of Louisiana finds that:

14 (1) A uniform and effective statewide dual enrollment program is important
15 to achieve Louisiana's goals for the talent development of its students.

16 (2) Equitable access and increased participation are necessary to achieve a
17 uniform and effective statewide dual enrollment program that expands postsecondary
18 educational and occupational opportunities.

19 (3) Facilitating equitable access for all students, including low-income,
20 diverse, and first-generation college students, is critical to increasing participation
21 in dual enrollment.

1 (4) The availability of dual enrollment courses in both academic and career-
 2 technical curricula is crucial to expanding postsecondary educational and
 3 occupational opportunities.

4 §2942. Definitions

5 A. "Dual enrollment" means the enrollment of a secondary school student
 6 in a postsecondary course for which both secondary school and postsecondary credit
 7 may be earned.

8 B. "Courses" means one of the following:

9 (1) Academic courses that the successful completion of which would result
 10 in earned credit that may be transferred to a public postsecondary education
 11 institution and applied toward an undergraduate degree.

12 (2) Career and technical education courses aligned with the career major
 13 option, pursuant to R.S. 17:183.1 et seq., that may be transferred for credit to a
 14 public postsecondary education institution and applied toward a credential from such
 15 institution.

16 §2943. Rules and regulations

17 A. The Board of Regents, in consultation with the state Board of Elementary
 18 and Secondary Education, shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation
 19 of this Chapter.

20 B. The Board of Regents, in consultation with the state Board of Elementary
 21 and Secondary Education, shall manage the grants pursuant to R.S. 17:2944,
 22 including but not limited to application requirements, evaluation criteria, and
 23 selection.

24 C. Nothing in this Chapter is intended to prohibit a city, parish, and other
 25 local public school board from developing and continuing an interinstitutional
 26 articulation and transfer agreement with a public postsecondary education institution
 27 relative to dual enrollment.

1 §2944. Dual Enrollment Innovation and Equity Grant; purpose; management

2 A. The Dual Enrollment Innovation and Equity Grant is hereby established
3 to conduct capacity building for implementation of a statewide dual enrollment
4 framework with the purpose of assisting and encouraging high schools and public
5 postsecondary education institutions to implement new or conduct existing dual
6 enrollment programs that provide equitable access and healthy participation.

7 B. A portion of funds appropriated to the Higher Education Initiatives Fund
8 pursuant to R.S. 17:3129.6 shall be allocated to the grant created by this Section.

9 * * *

10 §3129.6. Higher Education Initiatives Fund

11 * * *

12 B. The sources of monies deposited into the fund shall be legislative
13 appropriation and grants, gifts, and donations received by the state for the purposes
14 of this Section. Monies in the fund shall be subject to appropriation by the
15 legislature and shall be available exclusively for higher education institutions or for
16 the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to in this Section as the "board". The
17 board shall develop regulations and guidelines for the distribution and allocation of
18 monies appropriated to the board which shall be subject to approval by the Joint
19 Legislative Committee on the Budget. A portion of such funds shall be allocated to
20 support dual enrollment programs. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the
21 fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Such monies shall be
22 invested by the treasurer in the same manner as the monies in the state general fund,
23 and all interest earned shall be credited to the fund following compliance with the
24 requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative
25 to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

26 Section 2. The following principles shall guide dual enrollment access and capacity
27 building to develop statewide dual enrollment opportunities:

28 (a) The availability of dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, International
29 Baccalaureate courses, or any combination thereof, in core academic areas and in
30 career and technical fields in all high schools is critical.

1 (b) The availability of dual enrollment courses in both technical and
2 academic fields is essential to supporting the varied postsecondary pathways that
3 students pursue. Courses must be accessible to Louisiana's students in both areas,
4 with opportunities provided for students to enroll in either or a combination of both.

5 (c) Expansion of dual enrollment opportunities should focus on increased
6 access and equitable participation.

7 (d) Before graduating from high school, every student should be able to
8 enroll in at least four dual enrollment courses for which they are eligible, with no
9 tuition or fees charged to the student and minimized cost of attendance expenses
10 such as textbooks and other instructional materials, testing, and transportation costs.

11 (e) Meaningful, predictive assessments administered in tenth grade or earlier
12 will determine the college readiness of students and identify those in need of
13 additional preparation.

14 (f) Postsecondary educational institutions should emphasize consistent
15 academic quality in the delivery of courses offered for dual enrollment, regardless
16 of course location, instructor type, or delivery modality.

17 (g) Existing state and federal funding streams should be utilized to their full
18 extent to expand equitable participation in dual enrollment.

19 (h) With a focus on access and equity, the state's kindergarten through
20 twelfth grade accountability system pursuant to R.S. 17:10.1 should provide
21 appropriate incentives for schools to increase successful student completion of dual
22 enrollment courses and college-level assessments.

23 (i) Grants awarded through the Dual Enrollment Innovation and Equity
24 Grant through the Higher Education Initiatives Fund shall aid in the expansion of
25 dual enrollment opportunities across Louisiana, especially in rural areas.

26 Section 3. R.S. 17:2922.1(C) and 2929 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

27 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
28 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
29 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____