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## DIGEST

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HB 543 Original

2015 Regular Session

Harrison

**Abstract:** Requires the state Dept. of Education to develop and implement an accountability system for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program and requires compliance by such schools. Requires nonpublic schools applying to participate in the program to be determined as effective schools through the use of an accountability system comparable to the public school accountability system.

Present law, relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence (voucher) Program, requires the state Dept. of Education to develop criteria for participation that include an accountability system for participating students at participating schools. Provides that such system shall not be altered except by legislative Act except for certain numeric adjustments made by the state superintendent of education.

Proposed law deletes present law and instead requires the department to develop and implement an accountability system for participating nonpublic schools that is comparable to and contains the same components, requirements, and criteria as the school and district accountability system for public schools, including but not limited to requirements for high stakes testing, assignment of letter grades to schools, and publishing and reporting of accountability results. Requires participating nonpublic schools to comply with the accountability system.

Proposed law requires that in order for a nonpublic school to be eligible to participate in the program, it must be determined by the department to be effective pursuant to an accountability system provided for by proposed law.

Effective July 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 17:4015(2) and (9); Adds R.S. 17:4021(A)(4) and 4022(7))