AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(E), relative to state content standards; to provide for the review, development, and implementation of state content standards; to require that the standards be promulgated by rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act prior to implementation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

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E.(1) The state Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall develop and establish statewide state content standards for required subjects to be taught in the public elementary and secondary schools of this state. State content standards for English language arts and mathematics shall be reviewed and developed as provided in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.

(2) The statewide state content standards for required subjects shall be implemented by the state Department of Education as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, with recommendations prior to approval and advice from the educational personnel in the public schools and colleges and universities of this state.
(3) State content standards for English language arts and mathematics shall be reviewed and developed as follows:

(a) Not later than July 1, 2015, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall begin reviewing and developing state content standards in English language arts and mathematics.

(b) The board shall hold at least one meeting for such purpose in each Louisiana congressional district.

(c) The board shall submit the minutes from each meeting held pursuant to this Paragraph to each member of the legislature not later than thirty days after the meeting.

(d) All meetings held by the board for the review and development of the standards shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law.

(e) The board shall post the standards on its website not later than February 21, 2016, and shall adopt the standards not later than March 4, 2016.

(f) The board shall promulgate the standards in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act prior to implementation of the standards.

(4) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate each shall appoint one member from his respective house to serve as a liaison to attend the meetings held pursuant to Paragraph (3) of this Subsection. Each liaison shall report to the speaker or the president, as applicable, on the status of the review and development of the standards as provided in this Subsection.

(5) If, pursuant to R.S. 49:970, the governor suspends or vetoes the rules promulgated by the board for the standards as required in Subparagraph (3)(f) of this Subsection, the board shall undertake a review of the standards and make any necessary revisions and shall commence without delay the process for the promulgation of rules for the revised standards. The legislative liaisons appointed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection shall report to the speaker or the president, as applicable, the specific time lines and actions taken by the board in commencing the process for the promulgation of rules for the revised standards.
The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school may develop and implement curriculum, content, and methodology for required subjects for the schools under its jurisdiction in lieu of the curriculum, content, and methodology recommended by the state Department of Education or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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Section 2. This Act shall take effect and become operative if the Acts which originated as House Bill No. 542 and Senate Bill No. 43 of this 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature are enacted and become effective.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.