

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and local public school boards to post certain information on their respective websites relative to independent evaluations of charter proposals

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i), relative to charter school
3 proposals; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and
4 local public school boards to post on their respective websites certain information
5 relative to third-party evaluations of charter proposals; to specify time requirements
6 with regard to such posting; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 to read as follows:

10 §3981. State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; powers and duties
11 relative to charter schools

12 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

13 * * *

14 (4) Review each proposed charter in a timely manner and determine whether
15 each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is
16 valid, complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, whether it provides
17 for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with
18 R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with
19 R.S. 17:3911, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this

1 Chapter. The board shall engage in an application review process that complies with
 2 the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as
 3 promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall
 4 provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with
 5 educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The board shall post on
 6 its website, on the same webpage where the board provides notice to the public of
 7 its upcoming meetings, the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the
 8 third-party evaluator. Such information shall be posted no later than five business
 9 days prior to the meeting at which the board will take action on the charter proposal.

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11 §3982. Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable
 12 property; sale or lease

13 A.(1)(a)(i) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall
 14 review and formally act upon each charter proposal received within time lines
 15 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that are
 16 consistent with national best practices in charter school authorizing. Such time lines
 17 shall require, at a minimum, an annual charter application process in which local
 18 school boards are afforded at least ninety days to evaluate such applications. In
 19 conducting such review, the local school board shall determine whether each
 20 proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid,
 21 complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, whether it provides
 22 for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with
 23 R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with
 24 R.S. 17:3911, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this
 25 Chapter. The local board shall engage in a transparent application review process
 26 that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School
 27 Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School
 28 Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal
 29 by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The

