

**ACT No. 207**

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

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 deliver to charter applicants certain information relative  
5 to third-party evaluations of charter proposals; to provide requirements with regard  
6 to such delivery; 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  
20 Chapter. The board shall engage in an application review process that complies with  
21 the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as  
22 promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall  
23 provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with  
24 educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The board shall send to

1 the charter applicant, either by electronic means or hand delivery, the final  
 2 evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party evaluator. Such  
 3 information shall be sent no later than five business days prior to the meeting at  
 4 which the board will take action on the charter proposal.

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6 §3982. Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable  
 7 property; sale or lease

8 A.(1)(a)(i) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall  
 9 review and formally act upon each charter proposal received within time lines  
 10 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that are  
 11 consistent with national best practices in charter school authorizing. Such time lines  
 12 shall require, at a minimum, an annual charter application process in which local  
 13 school boards are afforded at least ninety days to evaluate such applications. In  
 14 conducting such review, the local school board shall determine whether each  
 15 proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid,  
 16 complete, financially well-structured, and 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  
 20 Chapter. The local board shall engage in a transparent application review process  
 21 that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School  
 22 Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School  
 23 Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal  
 24 by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The  
 25 local board shall send to the charter applicant, either by electronic means or hand  
 26 delivery, the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party  
 27 evaluator. Such information shall be sent no later than five business days prior to the  
 28 meeting at which the local board will take action on the charter proposal. Each local  
 29 board shall use a common charter application developed by the state Department of

1 Education and approved by the state board, but may request additional information  
2 from applicants as needed.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_