

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 387

2018 Regular Session

Edmonds

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

SCHOOLS: Revises the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools

DIGEST

Present law provides that the parents of public school children shall have all of the following rights:

- (1) To examine the textbooks, lesson plans, curriculum, and supplemental material used in their child's classroom.
- (2) Inspect their child's school records, including academic records, medical or health records, records of any mental health counseling, or records of any vocational counseling.
- (3) To be notified when medical services are being offered to their child.
- (4) To be notified if a criminal action is deemed to have been committed against their child.
- (5) To be notified before the school allows law enforcement personnel to question their child.
- (6) To be notified before their child is taken or removed from the school campus.
- (7) To request and expect their child's family religious beliefs to be respected.
- (8) To receive written notice and to opt out of any surveys that include invasive questions about student's sexual experiences or attractions, the student's family beliefs, morality, religion, or political affiliations as well as any mental health or psychological problems of the student or a family member.
- (9) To receive written notice and to opt out of controversial instruction on topics associated with sexual activity.

Proposed law retains present law except for the following revisions:

- (1) Limits applicability of such rights to parents of public school children who have not reached the age of majority.
- (2) Relative to (2) above, further provides for parents' rights to receive a photocopy of the school records at no cost or a reasonable cost within 10 business days of a written request. Further defines academic records to include interim or benchmark assessments and provides that parents have a right to inspect and receive a copy of:
 - (a) Records of attendance.
 - (b) Records of discipline.
 - (c) Records associated with a student's screening for learning challenges, exceptionalities, an Individualized Education Program, or Individual Accommodation Plan.

- (d) Other student-specific files, documents, or other materials that are maintained by the school.

Proposed law further provides that parents of public school children who have not reached the age of majority have the following additional rights:

- (1) To receive from the school the annual school calendar no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the school year. At a minimum, school officials shall include on the calendar student attendance days and any events that require parent or student attendance outside of normal school hours.
- (2) To annually receive in writing or to view on the school's website:
 - (a) A list of required fees and their purpose and use.
 - (b) A description of the required student uniform.
- (3) To be informed if their child's low academic performance could affect their child's ability to advance to the next grade level. Further provides such parents have a right to be offered a meeting with the student's teacher and school leader to discuss strategies and resources to improve the student's academic performance.

Proposed law makes present law applicable to charter schools.

(Amends R.S. 17:406.9(B)(intro. para.) and (2)(intro. para.) and (a); Adds R.S. 17:406.9(B)(2)(e)-(h) and (10)-(13) and 3996(B)(45))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Make Parents' Bill of Rights for public schools applicable to charter schools.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill

- 1. Makes technical changes.
- 2. Removes the requirement that schools provide a cost estimate for uniforms.