

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 128

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

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

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides with respect to state content standards and assessments. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3991(C)(5) and 4016(A), to enact R.S. 17:24.4(E)(7) and
3 4021(D), and to repeal R.S. 17:4015(7)(a), 4023, and 4024(A)(5), relative to state
4 content standards and related assessments; to allow each public school governing
5 authority to determine the content standards and assessments to be used in the
6 schools under its jurisdiction; to prohibit the State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education and the state Department of Education from mandating the use
8 of state-adopted standards and assessments; to provide for a process whereby the
9 people can decide which content standards and assessments will be used in public
10 schools; to provide relative to the school and district accountability system, teacher
11 evaluations, and pupil progression plans; to provide relative to programs provided
12 by charter schools; to provide relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational
13 Excellence Program; and to provide for related matters.
14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
15 Section 1. R.S. 17:3991(C)(5) and 4016(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and
16 R.S. 17:24.4(E)(7) and 4021(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
17 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for

1 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish
2 or city school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

3 * * *

4 E. * * *

5 **(7)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the**
6 **governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school may adopt**
7 **and implement the content standards and related assessments it determines best**
8 **serves the educational needs of the students it serves.**

9 **(b) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the**
10 **state Department of Education shall not require the governing authority of any**
11 **public elementary and secondary school to implement the Common Core**
12 **standards developed jointly by the National Governors Association Center for**
13 **Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, or any other**
14 **content standards adopted by the state board, nor shall local schools and school**
15 **districts be required to participate in the administration of any state tests or**
16 **assessments.**

17 **(c)(i) Upon receipt of a petition signed by at least ten percent of the**
18 **registered voters residing within the geographic boundaries of the school**
19 **district, the local public school board shall provide for an election whereby the**
20 **people shall choose whether state content standards and related assessments or**
21 **locally adopted content standards and assessments shall be used in the schools**
22 **within the school system.**

23 **(ii) In the case of a charter school, upon receipt of a petition signed by at**
24 **least ten percent of the parents who have children enrolled in the school, the**
25 **governing authority of the school shall provide for a process whereby the**
26 **parents of the children enrolled in the school shall be able to vote on whether**
27 **state content standards and related assessments or content standards and**
28 **assessments adopted by the school's governing authority shall be used in the**
29 **school.**

content standards and assessments adopted by the school's governing authority will be used in the school.

Present law provides that charter schools shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and employment practices. Proposed law removes the prohibition against sectarian programs.

Present law provides for the Students Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP) which provides scholarships to certain students in failing public schools to use at approved nonpublic schools. To be eligible to participate in SSEEP, the nonpublic schools must meet certain requirements and ensure that scholarship recipients are administered all examinations required by the school and district accountability rules and provide the results of these examinations to the parents or legal guardians of scholarship recipients.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state DOE from requiring a nonpublic school to adhere to state content standards or administer any examination required by the school and district accountability system as a condition of eligibility to participate in the program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3991(C)(5) and 4016(A); adds R.S. 17:24.4(E)(7) and 4021(D); repeals 4015(7)(a), 4023, and 4024(A)(5))