

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 27, 2022

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 145 of the 2022 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 145 of the Regular Session of 2022.

This bill would allow any charter school group with a corporate partner to submit a proposal directly to BESE for approval, bypassing the authority of the local school board for the jurisdiction in which the charter school intends to locate. When the legislature first enacted the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law, its stated intent was to authorize city and parish school boards to experiment with the creation of innovative kinds of independent public schools for students. Currently, a local school board has the autonomy to determine whether a charter school proposal is in the best interests of its community, considering among other things constituent input from the public hearing on the proposal, the impact of the loss of MFP dollars that would be diverted to the charter school, how local education dollars are spent, and whether the proposal is educationally sound and financially well-structured. Furthermore, if a local school board does not approve a proposal, the chartering group then has the opportunity to submit a charter proposal to BESE.

Although this bill was couched as necessary to cut through the red tape a charter school has to go through for approval, the consequences of eliminating local approval of charter schools and diverting MFP dollars far outweighs any administrative benefit that may be received. For these reasons, I have vetoed the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure

cc: Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Speaker of the House of Representatives