
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jay R. Lueckel.

DIGEST

Present law provides for a request to be included within the La. Educational Television Authority's (LETA) annual operating budget to the division of administration as a separate item for certain funds to be distributed to qualified public television and radio stations not licensed to the authority. Specifies that such request shall be calculated as an amount equal to seventeen and one-half percent of the state general funds for ongoing operations of LETA. The base amount for the calculation for qualified radio and television stations shall not include funds requested by LETA for services beyond the scope of broadcast activities common to television and radio stations not licensed to the authority, nor shall the base amount include funds requested on behalf of the recipient radio and television stations not licensed to the authority.

Proposed law retains prior law but does not limit the base amount to funds requested for salaries, wages, or other compensation and operating expenses. Further, funds requested for services beyond the scope of broadcast, outreach, and digital media activities shall not be included in the base calculation. Describes outreach activities to include activities that utilize program content beyond broadcast in furthering licensee educational, cultural, or civic goals and objectives and digital media activities to include activities utilizing the internet and other digitally-based distribution technologies to further licensee goals and objectives.

Proposed law creates the Greater New Orleans Public Television Fund as a special fund in the state treasury and beginning 7/1/09, and annually thereafter, provides for the deposit of state general funds of an amount equal to the items included in the annual operating budget request for qualified television stations not licensed to the authority into the La. Educational Television Authority.

Proposed law provides that monies in the fund shall be subject to an annual appropriation by the legislature and that such monies shall be available exclusively for operations typical of public television stations and apportioned on the basis of relative participation in the Community Service Grant Program. Further provides that any expenditures to be made with state funds for purposes outside common industry standards shall be approved in advance by LETA.

Proposed law provides that interest earnings on monies in the fund shall be deposited into the state general fund, and that unexpended, unencumbered monies remaining in the fund at the end of each year shall remain to the credit of the fund.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Amends R.S. 17:2507(B); adds R.S. 17:2507.1)