

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL NO. 220

BY SENATOR MORRELL

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Provides that local school boards located in parishes with a population greater than 470,000 are required to provide bus transportation only to students attending public schools directly operated by the local school board. (8/15/09)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:158(A)(5), relative to school transportation; to provide relative to school
3 bus transportation operated by certain school boards; and to provide for related
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:158(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;
8 alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus
9 turnarounds

10 A. * * *

11 **A.(5) Notwithstanding this Section or any other provision of law to the**
12 **contrary, any city, parish, or other local public school board located in a parish**
13 **with a population greater than four hundred seventy thousand, according to the**
14 **latest federal decennial census, shall only be required to provide transportation**
15 **to students attending public schools directly operated by the school board.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

Present law requires, except as otherwise provided in present law, each parish and city school board to provide free transportation for any student attending a school within the jurisdictional boundaries of the parish or school board, if the student resides more than one mile from such school.

Present law provides that certain school boards may provide transportation for any student attending a school within the jurisdictional boundaries of the parish or school board who resides one mile or less from the school when the school board determines that conditions exist to warrant such transportation. Provides that transportation of students residing one mile or less from their school is at no cost to the state.

Present law prohibits any school board from eliminating or reducing the level of transportation services provided to students, except for economically justifiable reasons approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Provides procedures for school boards seeking approval to eliminate or reduce the level of transportation services for such reasons.

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding present law, any city, parish, or other local public school board located in a parish with a population of more than 470,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, is only required to provide transportation to students attending public schools directly operated by the school board.

Effective August 15, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 17:158(A)(5))