

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 509

BY SENATOR LONG

SCHOOLS. Includes the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in the MFP.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:1968.1 and to repeal R.S. 17:1969, relative to funding for the Louisiana
3 School for Math, Science, and the Arts; to provide for the inclusion of the school in
4 the minimum foundation program formula; to provide for the allocation of minimum
5 foundation program funds attributable to such inclusion; to provide relative to
6 appropriations from the state general fund; to repeal the requirement that the school's
7 board of directors prepare and adopt a formula to adequately fund the school's
8 educational programs; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:1968.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **§1968.1. Funding; inclusion in the minimum foundation program formula;**
12 **other appropriated state funds**

13 **A. (1) The state shall annually fund the Louisiana School for Math,**
14 **Science, and the Arts at a level that shall not be less than the average funding**
15 **on a per student basis at peer institutions in other states having similar**
16 **programs.**

17 **(2) Such funding level shall be achieved through appropriations made**

1 directly to the school from the state general fund and through funds
2 appropriated for the minimum foundation program and allocated to the school
3 by the Department of Education.

4 B.(1) For the purposes of this Section, the Louisiana School for Math,
5 Science, and the Arts shall be considered a public secondary school and, as such,
6 shall be included by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
7 in the formula required by Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of
8 Louisiana used to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program of
9 education in all public elementary and secondary schools.

10 (2) Minimum foundation program funds allocated to the school shall be
11 based upon the school's enrollment on October first of the preceding school year
12 and each student shall be funded at one hundred percent of the base per pupil
13 amount as contained in the minimum foundation program budget letter
14 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

15 C. Funding allocated to the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the
16 Arts through the minimum foundation program formula shall not supplant or
17 replace funds otherwise appropriated to the school based upon prior years'
18 funding levels.

19 Section 2. R.S. 17:1969 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

20 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
21 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
22 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
24 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Proposed law (R.S. 17:1968.1) provides with respect to the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts as follows:

1. Requires the state to annually fund the school at a level not less than the average per student funding at peer institutions in other states having similar programs. Such funding level shall be achieved through appropriations made directly to the school from the state general fund and through funds appropriated for the minimum foundation program and allocated to the school by the Dept. of Education.
2. For purposes of proposed law, the school will be considered a public secondary school and included by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in the minimum foundation program formula (MFP). MFP funds allocated to the school will be based upon the school's enrollment on October first of the preceding school year and each student shall be funded at 100% of the base per pupil amount as contained in the MFP budget letter approved by BESE.
3. Funding allocated to the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts through the MFP shall not supplant or replace funds otherwise appropriated to the school based upon prior years' funding levels.

Present law (R.S. 17:1969) requires the board of directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts to annually prepare and adopt a recommended formula to adequately fund the school's educational programs. The goal of this formula is to provide state funding for the school which is not less than the average per student funding at peer institutions in other states having similar programs and enrollments and may provide for achieving its goal over a multi-year period.

Provides that, prior to approval, BESE may return the formula adopted by the board of directors and may recommend an amended formula for consideration by the board for submission to BESE for approval.

Provides that if BESE fails to approve the formula most recently adopted by the board of directors, the last formula adopted by the board and approved by BESE shall be used to adequately fund the educational programs at the school.

Requires the board of directors of the school to annually request sufficient monies to fully fund the cost to the state for the school based on the adopted and approved formula and to submit their budget request to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Provides that if the BESE fails to approve the formula developed by the school's board of directors, the board shall prepare its annual budget request as otherwise provided by law.

Provides that the amount of funding for any budget request submitted by the board shall be determined by the legislature.

Proposed law repeals present law.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:1968.1; repeals R.S. 17:1969)