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 DIGEST
 

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Long

SB No. 509

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 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. States that the goal of such 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 that it may provide for achieving its goal over a multi-year period. Provides that the recommended formula shall be submitted to the div. of administration as the total budget request for the school.
2. Specifies that funding for the school shall be achieved through appropriations made directly to the school from the state general fund and through funds appropriated for the minimum foundation program (MFP) and allocated to the school by the state Dept. of Education.
3. For purposes of proposed law, provides that the school shall be considered a public secondary school and included by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in the MFP formula. Provides that the MFP funds allocated to the school will be based upon the school's enrollment, which shall be determined in the same manner as for other public schools. Provides that each student shall be funded at 100% of the state per pupil amount as contained in the MFP budget letter approved by BESE.
4. Provides that the amount of funding for the school's budget request not provided through the MFP shall be determined by the legislature.

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. States that 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 that the formula may provide for achieving its goal over a multi-year period. These provisions of present law are incorporated into proposed law.

Present law 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 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 of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Deletes requirement that the legislature annually fund the school at a level not less than the average per student funding provided to peer institutions.
2. Changes method of computation of student enrollment count.
3. Deletes language providing that MFP funding shall not supplant historical SGF funding of the school and provides that the level of funding outside of the MFP shall be determined by the legislature.

Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill.

1. Adds the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts in the MFP.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill.

1. Deletes proposed law provisions relative to the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts.
2. Relative to MFP funding for the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, provides that each student shall be funded at 100% of the state per pupil amount rather than the base per pupil amount.