
The original instrument was prepared by Jeanne Johnston. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Long (SB 509)

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

1. Requires the board of directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts and the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts to annually prepare and adopt a recommended formula to adequately fund the school's educational programs. The goal of such formula is to provide state funding for the schools 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. The recommended formula shall be submitted to the div. of administration as the total budget request for the schools.
2. Specifies that funding for the schools shall be achieved through appropriations made directly to the schools from the state general fund and through funds appropriated for the minimum foundation program and allocated to the school by the Dept. of Education.
3. For purposes of proposed law, the schools will be considered a public secondary school and included by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in the minimum foundation program formula (MFP). 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. Each student shall be funded at 100% of the base per pupil amount as contained in the MFP budget letter approved by BESE.
4. The amount of funding for the respective 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. 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. These provisions of present law were 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 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.

(Amends R.S. 17:1970.27(a); 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.