

New law creates the Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional Materials within the Dept. of Education for the purpose of reviewing, analyzing, and making recommendations relative to the processes used in selecting and approving textbooks and other instructional materials for public schools. Provides for 18 members, as follows:

- (1) The state superintendent of education, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman.
- (2) A member of the state Dept. of Education (DOE) staff with a working knowledge of the processes.
- (3) A member appointed by each of the following: La. School Boards Association, La. Association of School Superintendents, La. Association of School Executives, La. Association of Principals, La. Federation of Teachers, La. Association of Educators, and Associated Professional Educators of La.
- (4) Three classroom teachers and three parents of students enrolled in an elementary or secondary school, appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (5) A member of the La. Senate, appointed by the Senate president.
- (6) A member of the La. House of Representatives, appointed by the House speaker.
- (7) A representative of the Association of American Publishers.

Provides that members shall serve without compensation but may receive per diem or reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by the appointing authority and provides that vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original appointment.

Requires the state superintendent of education to convene the first meeting by Sept. 1, 2013, and to designate staff to assist the task force. Requires that the task force:

- (1) Consider the following when making its recommendations:
  - (a) The optimal balance of authority and responsibility between the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, DOE, and schools and school systems for the review, selection, and purchase of texts and instructional materials, including internet content.
  - (b) Strategies to increase the use of electronic texts and other instructional materials and address the costs of providing related hardware and internet access.
  - (c) Strategies to revise the processes used in such review, selection, and purchase in order to provide maximum flexibility for schools while ensuring that students are provided with texts and instructional materials that are current and aligned with state content standards.
  - (d) A process to facilitate the purchase and delivery of texts and instructional materials at the lowest possible cost and in a timely manner.
- (2) Submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on education by Feb. 1, 2014.

Provides that the task force shall terminate on June 30, 2014.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 18, 2013).

(Adds R.S. 17:8.3 and R.S. 36:651(G)(1))