

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1199

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

EDUCATION: Provides relative to parents' access to information about schools and instructional materials used by schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:235.1(B)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(e) and (D), to enact
3 R.S. 17:235.1(B)(4)(f) and 355, and to repeal R.S. 17:235.1(A), (C), and (F), relative
4 to parental access to school-related information and materials; to provide relative to
5 parental access to instructional materials in public schools; to require local school
6 boards to adopt rules and policies to provide for such access, including provisions
7 for reasonable fees for copies; to remove requirements for parents to attend parent
8 orientation; to require inclusion of school board policies for parental access to
9 instructional materials as a part of parent orientation; and to provide for related
10 matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:235.1(B)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(e) are hereby amended
13 and reenacted and R.S. 17:235.1(B)(4)(f) and 355 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §235.1. Parent orientation; ~~mandatory for school entrance; city and parish~~ local
15 public school boards; guidelines; ~~employer responsibilities~~

16 * * *

17 B. Each ~~city and parish~~ local public school board shall conduct a parent
18 orientation course according to the following guidelines:

19 * * *

1 (4) At the parent orientation meeting, the school board or its representative
2 shall provide each parent or guardian a copy of and shall explain school board
3 policies which:

4 * * *

5 (e) Address parental access to instructional materials as provided in R.S.
6 17:355.

7 ~~(e)~~ (f) Address any other such matters as the school board may deem
8 appropriate.

9 * * *

10 §355. Parental access to instructional materials

11 A. A parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school
12 shall be entitled to access to instructional materials as provided in this Section.

13 B. A parent is entitled to:

14 (1) Review instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's
15 child.

16 (2) Review any survey before the survey is administered or distributed by
17 a school to a student.

18 C. Each local school board shall adopt rules and policies for each school to
19 make instructional materials readily available for review as provided in this Section.
20 The rules may specify reasonable hours for review. The rules shall provide that the
21 school shall provide access to instructional materials to a parent upon request. If a
22 parent requests a paper copy of material that can be readily copied using school
23 equipment, such copy shall be provided. The rules shall establish reasonable and
24 customary fees to be collected by the school to cover the cost of providing such
25 copies. No provision of law or school board policy shall prohibit or interfere with
26 a parent's ability to make his own copies on school premises via mobile or other
27 device. The principal of each school shall ensure that the school complies with such
28 rules.

1 Section 3. Prior to August 1, 2014, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
2 Education and every local school board shall adopt rules and policies as provided in Section
3 1 of this Act and otherwise provide for implementation of Section 1 of this Act on August
4 1, 2014.

5 Section 4.(A) Sections 2 and 3 of this Act and this Section shall become effective
6 upon signature of this Act by the governor or, if this Act is not signed by the governor, upon
7 expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided
8 by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the
9 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, Sections 2 and 3 of this Act and this
10 Section shall become effective on the day following such approval.

11 (B) Section 1 of this Act shall become effective on August 1, 2014.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Schroder

HB No. 1199

Abstract: Provides for parental access to instructional materials in public schools, requires information about such access to be included in parent orientation sessions, and removes requirements for parents to attend orientation sessions.

Proposed law provides that a parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school is entitled to:

- (1) Review instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's child.
- (2) Review any survey before it is administered or distributed by a school to a student.

Proposed law requires each local school board to adopt rules and policies for each school to make instructional materials available for review as provided in proposed law. Provides that the rules may specify reasonable hours for review and specifies that they require the school to provide copies to a parent upon request and establish reasonable fees therefor. Requires the school principal to ensure that the school complies with such rules.

Proposed law includes these definitions:

- (1) "Instructional materials" means content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to a student. It also includes any non-secure test, non-secure assessment, or survey administered to a student. The term also includes books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material, information, or services, or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process.

- (2) "Parent" means the parent or legal guardian of a child.
- (3) "Survey" means any evaluative instrument or questionnaire that is not an assessment of academic knowledge, skills, or abilities, administered as part of a state, national, or international assessment or by itself.

Present law requires local school boards to conduct a parent orientation course that includes (in part) a parent orientation meeting at which the school board or its representative must provide each parent or guardian a copy of and explain specified school board policies.

Proposed law includes parental access to instructional materials in accordance with proposed law in school board policies to be covered in the parent orientation meeting.

Present law requires that a child entering public school within the state for the first time present evidence that at least one of his parents or guardians has completed the required parent orientation course. Provides that completion of one orientation course suffices for the enrollment of all children of a parent or guardian. Provides that no child shall be denied school entry by reason of a parent's noncompliance with present law. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires local school boards to notify parents whose children may enter school of the requirements for attending parent orientation. Proposed law instead requires that local school boards notify parents of the availability and schedule of orientation meetings.

Proposed law requires that, prior to Aug. 1, 2014, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and each local school board adopt rules and policies required by proposed law relative to access to instructional materials and otherwise provides for implementation of proposed law on Aug. 1, 2014.

Effective August 1, 2014, except provisions for rulemaking and implementation by local school boards and BESE and provisions abolishing requirements for parents to attend orientation meetings are effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:235.1(B)(intro. para.) and (4)(e) and (D); Adds R.S. 17:235.1(B)(4)(f) and 355; Repeals R.S. 17:235.1(A), (C), and (F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Deletes proposed law provision entitling parents to review tests and assessments administered to their children and proposed law definition of "assessment".
2. In proposed law definition of "instructional materials" changes "test" and "assessments" to "nonsecure test" and "nonsecure assessment".