

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to Original Senate Bill No. 656 by Senator Buffington

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, change "17:4016(A) and enact R.S. 17:4017(C)," to "17:4016(A) and
3 (B)(2), and 4017, and to enact R.S. 17:4019,"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 On page 1, line 7, change "17:4016(A) is" to "17:4016(A) and (B)(2), and 4017 are"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 3

7 On page 1, at the end of line 7, change "R.S. 17:4017(C)" to "R.S. 17:4019"

8 AMENDMENT NO. 4

9 On page 1, delete lines 15 through 17, and insert:

10 "This amount shall be counted toward the equitable allocation of funds appropriated
11 to parish and city school systems as provided in Article VIII, Section 13(B) of the
12 Constitution of Louisiana. For a participating school that charges tuition, if the"

13 AMENDMENT NO. 5

14 On page 2, delete lines 4 through 10 and insert the following:

15 "allocated per pupil to the local school system in which the student resides, any
16 remaining funds shall be returned to the state or to the local school system in which
17 the scholarship recipient attended or otherwise would be attending public school for
18 that year according to the pro rata share for the per pupil amount each year as
19 determined by the minimum foundation program for the local school system in
20 which the scholarship recipient attended or otherwise would be attending public
21 school for that year **then the amount allocated per pupil to the school shall be**
22 **equal to the sum of such maximum tuition amount, such incidental or**
23 **supplementary fees charged to non-scholarship students, and such testing costs.**

24 B.

25 * * *

26 (2) The parent or legal guardian may make a parental placement to receive
27 special education and related services from a participating nonpublic school that has
28 demonstrated the capacity to offer such services. In such case, the nonpublic school
29 may charge a higher tuition for students receiving such services, **and** the state board
30 shall allocate annually from the **minimum foundation program funds appropriated**
31 **or otherwise available to the program** an amount per pupil to each participating
32 nonpublic school equal to a special education tuition amount based on the cost of
33 providing special education services identified for that student to the participating
34 nonpublic school. This amount shall be in addition to the participating nonpublic
35 school's maximum scholarship payment as described in Subsection A of this Section
36 but the total of the payment and the special education tuition shall not exceed the
37 amount **that would be** allocated **pursuant to the minimum foundation program**
38 **formula** for that student to the local school system if the student otherwise would
39 be attending public school.

40 * * *

1 AMENDMENT NO. 6

2 On page 2, delete line 13 and insert the following:

3 "A. ~~The department shall transfer scholarship payments to each participating~~
 4 ~~school on behalf of the responsible city or parish school district. No locally levied~~
 5 ~~school district tax revenues shall be transferred to any participating school located~~
 6 ~~outside of the school district where the tax is levied or any participating nonpublic~~
 7 ~~school within the district.~~

8 B. The amount to be paid for a scholarship shall be divided into four equal
 9 payments to be made to each participating school in September, December,
 10 February, and May of each school year. Payments shall be based on per pupil count
 11 dates as determined by the department. No refunds shall be made to the department
 12 or to the parent or legal guardian if the scholarship recipient withdraws from the
 13 program or is otherwise not enrolled prior to the next count date. The school in
 14 which the scholarship recipient is enrolled on the next count date shall receive the
 15 next payment."

16 AMENDMENT NO. 7

17 On page 2, line 14, change "C." to "B."

18 AMENDMENT NO. 8

19 On page 2, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

20 "§4019. Private scholarships

21 A. Recognizing the success of the program and in order to maintain the
 22 long term financial stability of the program, private businesses, industry,
 23 foundations, charities, and other groups may request from the division of
 24 administration that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, they
 25 may create privately funded scholarship programs to make payments to
 26 participating schools on behalf of individual students. If the division of
 27 administration were to approve such a private scholarship program then any
 28 private scholarship funds received by a participating school from such private
 29 scholarship program on behalf of a student shall cause a reduction in the dollar
 30 amount of the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship to
 31 the participating school attributable to that student such that the Student
 32 Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship associated with that
 33 student shall be an amount that is equal to the dollar amount that the Student
 34 Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship would have been if no such
 35 private scholarship funds had been received less the amount of private
 36 scholarship funds received by the participating school on behalf of that student.

37 B. This Section shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that a
 38 student could receive less benefits from a combination of the Student
 39 Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship and the private scholarship
 40 funded on his behalf than he would have received solely from the Student
 41 Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship if there had been no such
 42 private scholarship funded on his behalf. Therefore, to the extent any such
 43 privately funded scholarship funds provided for in this Section made to a
 44 participating school on behalf of a qualified student are for an amount less than
 45 the amount a given student would have otherwise received as a Student
 46 Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship if no such private
 47 scholarship funds had been paid under this Section, then the participating
 48 school shall receive that difference on behalf of the student as the student's
 49 Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship.

50 C. As provided in this Section, when a participating school receives
 51 privately funded scholarship funds on behalf of a student pursuant to this
 52 Section, the annual appropriation of state funds for the Student Scholarships
 53 for Educational Excellence program shall be reduced by the amount of such
 54 private scholarship program funds so received. The state treasurer shall

1 deposit the amount of such reduction as specified by the commissioner of
2 administration into the Overcollections Fund created in R.S. 39:100.21 and
3 credit such deposit to an account within the fund hereby established and
4 created to be known as the "Program Participation Savings Account".