

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 656 By Senator Buffington**KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

FUNDS/FUNDING. Authorizes public or private entities to make certain donations to various participating schools for recipients of student scholarship programs. (7/1/14)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Adds that the department allocate to schools participating in the voucher program an amount equal to the per pupil amount allocated to the system in which a student resides which amount is in the MFP inclusive of the calculation of both local and state per pupil allocations.
2. Adds provision for the commissioner of administration to determine the amount of reduction from the source of funds when private scholarship funds are received in order to provide the maximum benefit to the state from the privately funded scholarship program.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

Buffington

SB No. 656

Present law provides for the establishment of the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship to meet the needs of certain students.

Present law provides that BESE allocate annually from MFP funds an amount per pupil to each participating school equal to the amount allocated per pupil to the local system in which the scholarship recipient resides.

Proposed law requires the Department of Education to make this allocation and from funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the program in an amount equal to the amount allocated per pupil in the MFP inclusive of the calculation of both local and state per pupil allocations.

Proposed law retains present law relative to Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship and also provides that any public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make a directed donation to any participating school for a student who is a recipient of a Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship.

Proposed law adds a new section to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship that private businesses, industry, foundations, charities, and other groups may request the division of administration to create privately funded scholarship programs to make payments to eligible colleges and universities to participating schools on behalf of eligible students.

Proposed law provides that the new private scholarship program shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that a student would receive less benefits from the private scholarship than he would have from the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship had there been no private scholarship program.

Proposed law provides relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence scholarship, when an eligible college or university receives private scholarship funds on behalf of a student, the annual appropriation of state funds shall be reduced by the amount of the private scholarship funds so received and the commissioner of administration is to determine the amount of reduction from the source of funds provided to provide the maximum benefit to the state from the privately funded scholarship program. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount of the reduction as specified by the commissioner of

administration into the Overcollections Fund and credit the deposit to an account in the fund known as the "Program Participation Savings Account".

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:4016(A) and (B)(2) and 4017; adds R.S. 17:4019)

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