2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and local public school boards to post certain information on their respective websites relative to independent evaluations of charter proposals

1	AN ACT		
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i), relative to charter school		
3	proposals; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and		
4	local public school boards to post on their respective websites certain information		
5	relative to third-party evaluations of charter proposals; to specify time requirements		
6	with regard to such posting; and to provide for related matters.		
7	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:		
8	Section 1. R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i) are hereby amended and reenacted		
9	to read as follows:		
10	§3981. State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; powers and duties		
11	relative to charter schools		
12	The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:		
13	* * *		
14	(4) Review each proposed charter in a timely manner and determine whether		
15	each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is		
16	valid, complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, whether it provides		
17	for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with		
18	R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with		
19	R.S. 17:3911, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this		

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	Chapter. The board shall engage in an application review process that complies with
2	the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as
3	promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall
4	provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with
5	educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The board shall post on
6	its website, on the same webpage where the board provides notice to the public of
7	its upcoming meetings, the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the
8	third-party evaluator. Such information shall be posted no later than five business
9	days prior to the meeting at which the board will take action on the charter proposal.
10	* * *
11	§3982. Local school boards; duties; Orleans Parish School Board; immovable
12	property; sale or lease
13	A.(1)(a)(i) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall
14	review and formally act upon each charter proposal received within time lines
15	established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that are
16	consistent with national best practices in charter school authorizing. Such time lines
17	shall require, at a minimum, an annual charter application process in which local
18	school boards are afforded at least ninety days to evaluate such applications. In
19	conducting such review, the local school board shall determine whether each
20	proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid,
21	complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, whether it provides
22	for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with
23	R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with
24	R.S. 17:3911, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this
25	Chapter. The local board shall engage in a transparent application review process
26	that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School
27	Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School
28	Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal
29	by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise. The

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1	local board shall post on its website, on the same webpage where the board provides
2	notice to the public of its upcoming meetings, the final evaluation and
3	recommendations, if any, of the third-party evaluator. Such information shall be
4	posted no later than five business days prior to the meeting at which the local board
5	will take action on the charter proposal. Each local board shall use a common
6	charter application developed by the state Department of Education and approved by
7	the state board, but may request additional information from applicants as needed.
8	* * *

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)]

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2017 Regular Session

Emerson

Abstract: Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and local public school boards to post on their respective websites certain information relative to third-party evaluations of charter proposals.

<u>Present law</u> requires BESE and local public school boards to review each charter school proposal submitted in a timely manner and to determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, provides for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline, provides a plan for collecting data, and offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of <u>present law</u> relative to charter schools generally. Requires that the review process comply with the specified national principles and standards.

<u>Present law</u> requires an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds a requirement that BESE and local school boards post on their respective websites the final evaluation and recommendations, if any, of the third-party evaluator. Requires that such information is posted no later than five business days prior to the meeting at which the board will take action on the charter proposal. Otherwise retains <u>present law</u>.

(Amends R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i))