

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 737

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS: Increases time period that publishers have to respond to textbook reviews and provides relative to the local purchase of textbooks not reviewed by the the state Dept. of Education

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:351.1(B)(3)(d)(ii) and (4)(d), relative to the selection of
3 textbooks and instructional materials by public schools; to provide relative to
4 publisher responses to state Department of Education evaluations; to provide relative
5 to use of textbooks that the department has not reviewed; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:351.1(B)(3)(d)(ii) and (4)(d) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 to read as follows:

10 §351.1. Textbooks and other instructional materials; review; adoption; procurement;
11 distribution

12 * * *

13 B.

14 * * *

15 (3) The review process shall, at a minimum, provide for the following:

16 * * *

17 (d)

18 * * *

1 (ii) The opportunity for publishers and other content providers to submit
2 comments in response to any review committee evaluation. Publishers and content
3 providers shall be given the opportunity to review any evaluation prior to its posting
4 online and shall be given at least ~~ten~~ thirty business days to respond and make any
5 correction to the content that they deem necessary.

6 * * *

7 (4)

8 * * *

9 (d) ~~Nothing in this Section shall be construed as prohibiting~~ The department
10 shall not prohibit a public school or school district from purchasing or otherwise
11 acquiring textbooks and instructional materials that are not included in the list of
12 reviewed textbooks and instructional materials prepared by the ~~state Department of~~
13 ~~Education, provided the use of~~ department; however, such textbooks and
14 instructional materials ~~is not prohibited by the policies~~ shall be adopted and used in
15 accordance with Subsection C of this Section and any policy of the governing
16 authority of such school or school district.

17 * * *

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)]

HB 737 Original

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Reynolds

Abstract: Relative to the selection of textbooks used in public schools, increases the time period a publisher has to respond to state Dept. of Education (department) comments during the department's evaluation process and provides relative to a local school governing authority's selection of textbooks that are not on the department's approved list.

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a process whereby the department reviews textbooks and other materials of instruction (referred to hereinafter as "textbooks"). Requires the department to review textbooks in English language arts, math, science, and social studies at least every six years and determine the degree to which each aligns with state content standards. Authorizes the department to review textbooks in other subject areas as deemed necessary or upon request of a public school governing authority.

Present law requires the review process for textbooks to be conducted entirely online and specifies required elements of the review process. Among the process requirements is an opportunity for publishers to review any evaluation prior to its posting online. Requires that the publisher be given at least 10 business days to respond and correct the content before the evaluation is posted online. Proposed law retains present law except to increase the time for the publisher to respond and correct content to 30 business days.

Present law requires the department to provide local school governing authorities with a list of reviewed textbooks along with information on how each aligns with state content standards. Provides relative to the responsibilities of local school governing authorities in the selection of textbooks. Present law requires school governing authorities to adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks. Requires that such policies and regulations provide for committees that review textbooks that the department has not reviewed.

Present law provides that present law does not prohibit a school governing authority from acquiring textbooks that are not on the department's list, provided the use of such textbooks does not violate school or school governing authority policy. Proposed law provides instead that the department shall not prohibit a school or governing authority from acquiring books that are not on the department's list; however, such books shall be acquired and used in accordance with present law and with local policy.

(Amends R.S. 17:351.1(B)(3)(d)(ii) and (4)(d))