

**ACT No. 454**

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVES MAGEE, AMEDEE, BROWN, BRYANT, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FISHER, GREEN, HARRIS, LARVADAIN, MARINO, NELSON, ORGERON, PIERRE, STEFANSKI, THOMAS, THOMPSON, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATOR CORTEZ

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part II-E of Chapter 8 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 17:1977.1 through 1977.3, and R.S. 36:651(C)(13), relative to  
4 education; to create an independent public French immersion school; to provide for  
5 the location of the school and the grade levels to be served; to provide for a board of  
6 directors and a school director and the powers, duties, and responsibilities of each;  
7 to provide for board membership, terms, and compensation; to provide for an  
8 effective date; to provide for funding; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part II-E of Chapter 8 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
11 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:1977.1 through 1977.3, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 PART II-E. ÉCOLE POINTE-AU-CHIEN

13 §1977.1. École Pointe-au-Chien; creation; location; governance

14 There is hereby created École Pointe-au-Chien, a public French immersion  
15 school for students in grades prekindergarten through four. The school shall be  
16 located in Terrebonne Parish. The school shall be independent of the control of the  
17 state superintendent of education and of all local and state education boards except  
18 its board of directors.

1           §1977.2. Board of directors; creation; membership; terms; powers; voting;  
2                           compensation

3           A. There is hereby created a board of directors for the school, referred to in  
4           this Part as the "board". The board shall be composed of thirteen members as  
5           follows:

6                           (1) Three members appointed by the state-recognized Pointe-au-Chien  
7           Indian Tribe.

8                           (2) One member appointed by the state-recognized Isle-De-Jean-Charles  
9           Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians of Louisiana.

10                          (3) One member appointed by the governor.

11                          (4) One member appointed by the Council for the Development of French  
12           in Louisiana who is an employee of the council.

13                          (5) One member appointed by the Consul General of France in Louisiana.

14                          (6) One member appointed by the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-  
15           Chitimacha-Choctaw.

16                          (7) One member appointed by the Bayou Lafourche Band of Biloxi-  
17           Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees.

18                          (8) One member appointed by the United Houma Nation.

19                          (9) The state superintendent of education or his designee who is an employee  
20           of the state Department of Education.

21                          (10) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses the  
22           location of the school or his designee who is a resident of Pointe-aux-Chenes.

23                          (11) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district  
24           encompasses the location of the school or his designee who is a resident of Pointe-  
25           aux-Chenes.

26                          B. The terms of the members of the board shall be four years.

27                          C. Seven members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
28           of business, and all official action of the board shall require the favorable vote of a  
29           majority of those members present and voting.

1                    D. The board shall have the authority to do the following:

2                    (1) Accept donations, bequests, or other forms of financial assistance for  
3                    educational purposes from any public or private person or agency and comply with  
4                    rules and regulations governing grants from the federal government or from any  
5                    other person or agency.

6                    (2) Purchase land and equipment and make improvements to facilities  
7                    necessary for the use of the school in accordance with applicable law.

8                    (3) Lease land or other property belonging to it or to the school, subject to  
9                    approval of the commissioner of administration and in accordance with law.

10                  (4) Sell or exchange land or other real property not needed for school  
11                  purposes, but only when specifically authorized by law and then only in accordance  
12                  with the procedures provided in R.S. 41:892 for the sale of unused school lands. The  
13                  sale shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the board, and the act of sale shall  
14                  be signed by the president of the board or such other person to whom the signing  
15                  may be delegated by the board in the authorizing resolution.

16                  (5) Adopt rules, regulations, and policies necessary or proper for the conduct  
17                  of the business of the board.

18                  (6) Enter into contracts and agreements which have been recommended by  
19                  the director, in accordance with applicable law, and to the extent that funds are  
20                  specifically appropriated therefor, with other public agencies with respect to  
21                  cooperative enterprises and undertakings related to or associated with an educational  
22                  purpose or program affecting education in the school. This shall not preclude the  
23                  board from entering into other such contracts and agreements that it deems necessary  
24                  to carry out its duties and functions.

25                  (7) Perform such other functions as are necessary for the governance of the  
26                  school.

27                  E. In addition to the authorities granted by this Section and any powers,  
28                  duties, and responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

29                  (1) Adopt rules, regulations, and policies, including a student handbook, that  
30                  are necessary for the efficient operation of the school.

1                   (2) Prescribe and select for use in the school free textbooks and other  
2                   materials of instruction for students enrolled in the school.

3                   (3) Select a director who shall be the chief administrative officer of the  
4                   school and who shall administer the rules, regulations, and policies adopted by the  
5                   board. The board shall delegate to the director such of its powers and duties as it  
6                   deems appropriate to aid the director in the efficient administration of his  
7                   responsibility for the implementation of the policies of the board. The director shall  
8                   be responsible for all the administrative functions, duties, and needs of the board  
9                   including but not limited to the following:

10                   (a) Preparing an annual budget necessary for the continued operation of the  
11                   school and submitting such budget to the board for adoption.

12                   (b) Paying the expenses of the board and its members and the salaries and  
13                   expenses, including but not restricted to facilities, equipment, and supplies of the  
14                   faculty and staff of the school out of funds appropriated or otherwise made available  
15                   for the operating and administrative expenses of the board and the school.

16                   (c) Exercising budgetary responsibility and allocating for expenditure by the  
17                   school all monies appropriated or otherwise made available for purposes of the board  
18                   and the school.

19                   (d) Developing and annually updating a student handbook including but not  
20                   limited to all rules, regulations, and policies for the disciplining of students and  
21                   submitting such handbook to the board for adoption as provided in Paragraph (1) of  
22                   this Subsection.

23                   (e) Determining faculty and staff positions necessary for the efficient  
24                   operation of the school and selecting personnel for such positions.

25                   (f) Creating an advisory panel of individuals with expertise or interest in  
26                   matters pertaining to the school.

27                   F. Members of the board shall not receive any compensation for their service  
28                   as members.

29                   G. The school shall act as its own local education agency.



1           (B) The provisions of R.S. 17:1977.2 and R.S. 36:651(C)(13) as provided in this  
2 Act, relative to the creation of the board of directors, shall become effective upon signature  
3 of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for  
4 bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section  
5 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and subsequently  
6 approved by the legislature, the provisions of R.S. 17:1977.2 and R.S. 36:651(C)(13) as  
7 provided in this Act, relative to the creation of the board of directors, shall become effective  
8 on the day following such approval.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_