

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 350

BY SENATORS EDMONDS AND CLOUD

SCHOOLS. Provides relative to charter schools. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1) and

3 3972(B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i) and to enact R.S. 17:3991(C)(7),

4 relative to charter schools; to provide relative to the purpose and definitions

5 applicable to charter schools and their establishment; to provide relative to eligibility

6 to propose a charter; to provide relative to the contents, renewal, and revocation of

7 a charter; to provide with respect to the requirements and authorities of a charter

8 school; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1) and

11 3972(B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.

12 17:3991(C)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 CHAPTER 42. LOUISIANA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ~~DEMONSTRATION~~

14 ~~PROGRAMS~~ LAW

15 PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

16 §3971. Short citation

17 This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Public

1 Charter School ~~Demonstration Programs~~ Law".

2 §3972. Intent and purpose

3 A. It is the intention of the legislature in enacting this Chapter to authorize  
 4 **school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils through** experimentation  
 5 ~~by city and parish school boards by authorizing~~ the creation of innovative kinds of  
 6 independent public **charter** schools ~~for students~~. Further, it is the intention of the  
 7 legislature to provide a framework **of operational autonomy for such schools** ~~for~~  
 8 ~~such experimentation by the creation of such schools~~, a means for all persons with  
 9 valid ideas and motivation to participate, **and a mechanism by which results can**  
 10 **be analyzed, considered, and repeated or replicated if appropriate** ~~in the~~  
 11 ~~experiment, and a mechanism by which experiment results can be analyzed, the~~  
 12 ~~positive results repeated or replicated, if appropriate, and the negative results~~  
 13 ~~identified and eliminated~~. Finally, it is the intention of the legislature that the best  
 14 interests of students who are economically disadvantaged shall be the overriding  
 15 consideration in implementing the provisions of this Chapter.

16 B.(1) The purposes of this Chapter shall be to **increase school choice options**  
 17 **throughout the state and to** provide opportunities for **parents**, educators, and  
 18 others interested in educating pupils to form, operate, or be employed within a **an**  
 19 **operationally autonomous** charter school with each such school designed to  
 20 accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

21 \* \* \*

22 (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods,  
 23 **educational models**, and a variety of governance, management, and administrative  
 24 structures.

25 \* \* \*

26 §3973. Definitions

27 As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings  
 28 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

29 (1) ~~Repeated by Acts 2017, No. 136, §2, eff. August 1, 2017.~~ **"Autonomy"**



\* \* \*

**(7) Have the autonomy necessary to manage its educational programming and daily operations in accordance with law, policy, and contract.**

\* \* \*

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument was prepared by Mary Francis Aucoin. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle D. Ridge.

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DIGEST

SB 350 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Edmonds

Proposed law changes the short cite for Chapter 42 of Title 17 from "Charter School Demonstration Programs Law" to "Louisiana Public Charter School Law".

Present law (R.S. 17:3972) authorizes experimentation by city and parish school boards to create innovative kinds of independent public schools.

Proposed law removes authorization of experimentation from city and parish school boards and further allows for authorization of school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils through creation of innovative kinds of independent public charter schools.

Proposed law defines "autonomy" as, unless mutually agreed upon by the chartering authority and charter school, or otherwise required or prohibited by law, the charter school shall have independent operational decision making authority in the areas including but not limited to:

- (1) School programming, instruction, curriculum, materials, texts, calendars, and schedules;
- (2) Personnel, employment, salaries and benefits, educator certification and evaluation, performance management, participation in retirement planning, and collective bargaining;
- (3) Budgeting, purchasing, procurement, contracts, food service, and management of transportation.

Present law (R.S. 17:3983) requires each proposal for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school must first be made to the local school board with jurisdiction where the school is to be located.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the applicant must also provide notice of application submission for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school to the state Department of Education.

Proposed law provides that a charter school must have the autonomy necessary to manage its educational programming and daily operations in accordance with law, policy, and contract.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), (B)(1)(intro para) and (B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i); adds R.S. 17:3991(C)(7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Removes provisions that extend protections and liability limitations to charter schools and its officers and employees.
2. Makes technical changes.