

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 589

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

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

EDUCATION: Provides relative to the effectiveness of laws requiring reports to be submitted annually to the legislature by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education and provides relative to certain commissions and advisory councils

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:205(A), 216(A)(introductory paragraph) and (B), 407.101(G),
3 and 416.21(N)(3)(b)(ii), to enact R.S. 17:2, and to repeal R.S. 17:202, 203, 205(B)(1)
4 and (2), 215, 217, 220(B)(5) and (C), 253, and 407.101(E)(8) and R.S. 36:651(E)(2),
5 relative to elementary and secondary education; to provide relative to reports
6 required for submission to the legislature by the State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education or state Department of Education; to provide that each law
8 requiring such a report shall cease to be effective two years following the date of its
9 first publication unless renewed by the legislature; to reduce the required number of
10 annual meetings of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission; to abolish
11 the task force created by the commission; to abolish the Louisiana Environmental
12 Education Commission and transfer certain commission duties to the department; to
13 abolish the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline; to provide for
14 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

16 Section 1. R.S. 17:2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1 §2. Reports of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and state
2 Department of Education

3 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any provision of
4 the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 requiring the State Board of Elementary and
5 Secondary Education or the state Department of Education to submit a report as
6 defined in R.S. 24:771 shall cease to be effective on August first two years following
7 the date of the first publication of the report unless renewed by the legislature.

8 B. If a bill providing for the renewal of a reporting requirement does not
9 become law, the statute creating and continuing such report shall be construed as
10 repealed on the applicable termination date.

11 Section 2. R.S. 17:205(A), 216(A)(introductory paragraph) and (B), 407.101(G), and
12 416.21(N)(3)(b)(ii) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

13 §205. Environmental Education Section; staff; powers and duties; cooperation;
14 funding

15 A. There is hereby created, within the state Department of Education, the
16 environmental education section which shall ~~assist the commission and~~ perform
17 responsibilities relative to education as provided for in this Subpart. Insofar as funds
18 are appropriated, staff may be employed under the direction and control of the state
19 superintendent of education and in accordance with policies of the department.

20 * * *

21 §216. Curriculum framework

22 A. The ~~commission~~ state Department of Education shall develop a
23 curriculum framework for establishing environmental education programs in all
24 public and private elementary and secondary schools. The program shall integrate
25 environmental concepts and skills into regular curricula, which include:

26 * * *

27 B. The ~~commission shall work with the Department of Education to~~
28 department shall implement an environmental education program in grades K-12.

29 * * *

1 §407.101. Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

2 * * *

3 G. The commission shall meet at least ~~four~~ two times per year. At each
4 meeting, the state Department of Education shall provide updates on how the
5 commission's recommendations are being implemented. The commission shall make
6 any further recommendations it deems necessary to advance the vision and goals
7 established pursuant to Subsection E of this Section.

8 * * *

9 §416.21. Behavior of students with exceptionalities; use of seclusion and physical
10 restraint

11 * * *

12 N.

13 * * *

14 (3)

15 * * *

16 (b)

17 * * *

18 (ii) The state Department of Education shall post the annual report on its
19 website and submit a written copy to the Senate and House committees on education
20 ~~and the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline established pursuant~~
21 ~~to R.S. 17:253.~~

22 * * *

23 Section 3. R.S. 17:202, 203, 205(B)(1) and (2), 215, 217, 220(B)(5) and (C), 253,
24 and 407.101(E)(8) and R.S. 36:651(E)(2) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

25 Section 4.(A) This Section and Sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall become effective
26 on August 1, 2025.

27 (B) Section 1 of this Act shall become effective on August 1, 2026.

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 589 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Owen

Abstract: Provides relative to the effectiveness of laws requiring reports to be submitted annually to the legislature by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Dept. of Education and provides relative to certain commissions and advisory councils.

Reports

Proposed law provides, notwithstanding present law:

- (1) Any present law requirement for the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) or the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to annually submit to the legislature a report as defined by present law (R.S. 24:771) shall cease to be effective on August first two years following the date of the first publication of the report unless renewed by the legislature.
- (2) If a bill providing for the renewal of a report does not become law, the statute creating and continuing such report shall be construed as repealed on the applicable termination date.

Present law (R.S. 24:771) defines a "report" as:

- (1) Any report that is a public record and is requested by the legislature or is required by law or resolution to be submitted to the legislature or to either house or to any committee or joint committee thereof, other than reports of standing committees of the House or Senate.
- (2) Those reports of special committees, commissions, and task forces on which a member or members of the legislature serve, reports prepared for the legislature by any agency, or reports prepared for the legislature by a private individual or organization.

Commissions and advisory councils

Present law provides for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, requires it to meet at least four times annually, and requires it to establish a task force. Proposed law reduces the number of required annual meetings from four to two and abolishes the task force. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law establishes the La. Environmental Education Commission for the purpose of advising agencies and officials with respect to environmental education. Proposed law abolishes this commission and transfers its duty relative to developing a curriculum framework for environmental education programs to DOE.

Present law establishes the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline for the purpose of advising BESE and DOE on best practices with respect to school master plans for student behavior and discipline. Proposed law abolishes this advisory council.

Effective August 1, 2025, except that proposed law relative to reports is effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:205(A), 216(A)(intro. para.) and (B), 407.101(G), and 416.21(N)(3)(b)(ii); Adds R.S. 17:2; Repeals R.S. 17:202, 203, 205(B)(1) and (2), 215, 217, 220(B)(5) and (C), 253, and 407.101(E)(8) and R.S. 36:651(E)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Reinstates present law providing for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission except for the following changes:
 - (a) The reduction of its required number of annual meetings from four to two.
 - (b) The abolition of its task force.