
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 558 Original

2026 Regular Session

Echols

Abstract: Provides for the adjustment of teacher salary schedules as necessary to reach certain levels relative to the Southern regional average.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "Teacher Pay Modernization Act" and that proposed law applies to teachers at all public schools, including charter schools.

Proposed law, effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action:

- (1) Requires the state Dept. of Education to submit a report by Oct. 1, 2026, to the House and Senate education committees, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and each public school governing authority that includes the following relative to teacher salaries: each district average, the statewide average, and the Southern regional average.
- (2) Requires the 20 executive branch departments to submit a written report by Nov. 15th annually to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance that identifies the potential consolidation of functions, offices, and divisions, elimination of job positions, and other efforts toward efficiency and economy of services that could generate savings to be appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of adjusting teacher salaries as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law, effective on July 1, 2027, if the legislature enacts a specific appropriation of monies for such proposed law implementation during the 2027 R.S. and the appropriation becomes effective:

- (1) Requires each public school governing authority to adjust its salary schedule for classroom teachers as follows:
 - (a) For FY 2027-2028, adjust it as necessary to reduce by at least 25% percent the difference between its district average and the Southern regional average.
 - (b) For FY 2028-2029, adjust it as necessary to reduce by at least 50% percent the remaining difference between its district average and the Southern regional average.
 - (c) For FY 2029-2030, adjust it as necessary to reduce by at least 75% percent the remaining difference between its district average and the Southern regional average.

- (d) For FY 2030-2031 and each fiscal year thereafter, adjust it as necessary for the district's average annual teacher salary for the applicable year to equal or exceed the Southern regional average.
- (2) Requires the department to submit a report to the House and Senate education committees, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and each public school governing authority by Oct. first annually that includes all of the following:
- (a) Each district average.
 - (b) The statewide average.
 - (c) The Southern regional average.
 - (d) The amount of any state funding appropriated and distributed to school governing authorities for proposed law purposes.
 - (e) School governing authority compliance with proposed law.
 - (f) The remaining difference between the statewide average and the Southern regional average, if any.
- (3) Prohibits a school governing authority from using funds appropriated by the legislature for proposed law purposes for any purposes other than permanent, direct increases to base teacher salary schedules. Prohibits funds from being used for benefits or retirement costs, bonuses or one-time stipends, administrative salaries, professional services, or operating expenses.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules for the implementation of the above proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 17:418.2, 418.3, and 3996(B)(24))