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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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DIGEST

SB 394 Original

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

Present law provides for the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program, which is a state-funded Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program, that provides eligible families with state funds to pay for private school tuition at a BESE approved nonpublic school, tutoring, textbooks, and other educational expenses.

Present law provides that the La. Dept. of Education may hire a program manager (private vendor) to administer and manage the day-to-day operations of the LA GATOR scholarship program and to ensure accountability with state law.

Present law provides that the La. Dept. of Education will allocate scholarship funds to each student's account, on quarterly basis, in order for the student's parent to pay for educational expenses. Present law further provides that participating nonpublic schools are to be paid quarterly for student tuition for students that attend an approved nonpublic school.

Present law provides for student privacy rights which prohibit the sharing of the personally identifiable information of students, without written parental consent. Present law also prohibits data collection of students' personal information, mandates secure data storage, prohibits using student data for marketing, and imposes penalties for violations. Present law limits personal student information from being given to a private company or vendor, even if the company is a vendor for an educational agency.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a voluntary limited student privacy waiver option for a parent whose child enrolls full-time in a participating nonpublic school, in order to expedite payment of the student's tuition. Proposed law defines "participating nonpublic school" to mean a BESE approved nonpublic school that enrolls students who are approved for LA GATOR scholarships.

Proposed law provides for the voluntary limited student privacy waiver to serve as a mechanism to reserve spots in participating nonpublic schools, ensure timely tuition payments, and prevent loss of enrollment due to payment delays, while limiting the disclosure of all of other student privacy information that is not related to the expedited payments of full-time tuition.

Proposed law provides that the voluntary, limited, student privacy waiver option for parents whose child enrolls full-time in a participating nonpublic school so that the La. Dept. of Education can share the following private information with both the LA GATOR program manager (private company and vendor) and the participating nonpublic school, as follows:

- (1) Student name and ID number.
- (2) Date of birth.
- (3) Grade level.
- (4) Parent contact information.
- (5) Enrollment and scholarship eligibility status.

Proposed law provides that the program managers (private company or vendor) and the participating schools must only use the student information for scholarship administration and must implement security safeguards and be contractually prohibited from unauthorized redisclosure of student information.

Proposed law provides that voluntary limited student privacy waiver, for purposes of proposed law, remains effective only for the duration of LA GATOR program participation, unless revoked sooner by the parent.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:4037.6(A), (B), and (C); adds R.S. 17:4037.3(12), 4037.13 and 4037.14)