

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 271

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

EDUCATION: Creates the Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education and abolishes the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:651(F)(8), to enact Part XIV of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the  
3 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:410.21, and to repeal  
4 Part XIII of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
5 comprised of R.S. 17:410.11, relative to education; to create and provide for the  
6 Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education; to provide for the commission's  
7 purpose, membership, and powers and duties; to provide with respect to commission  
8 meetings; to require staff support by the state Department of Education; to abolish  
9 the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission and to provide for the transfer of its  
10 records to the newly created commission; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. Part XIV of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
13 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:410.21, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 PART XIV. LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON FOUNDATIONAL EDUCATION

15 §410.21. Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education

16 A. The Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education, referred to in this  
17 Section as the "commission", is hereby created for the purpose of evaluating and  
18 making recommendations to improve foundational education policy.

19 B. The commission has the following powers and duties:

1           (1) To serve as an advisory body to the State Board of Elementary and  
2           Secondary Education and the state Department of Education on matters relating to  
3           foundational literacy, numeracy, and family engagement from kindergarten through  
4           grade eight.

5           (2) To research and analyze all policies, regulations, procedures, and funding  
6           structures relative to the implementation of foundational education initiatives,  
7           reforms, and instructional practices.

8           (3) To request, receive, and review state, regional, and national data  
9           necessary to determine and understand the effectiveness and impact of foundational  
10          education initiatives, instructional strategies, and student outcomes.

11          (4) To develop and formulate policy, programmatic, and instructional  
12          recommendations aligned with evidence-based practices, including but not limited  
13          to literacy practices consistent with the science of reading and research-based  
14          mathematics and numeracy instruction.

15          (5) To recommend strategies to strengthen family engagement and promote  
16          alignment from prekindergarten through eighth grade to ensure kindergarten  
17          readiness and continuity in foundational skill development.

18          (6) To establish subcommittees or working groups to identify, analyze, and  
19          develop recommendations in areas deemed appropriate by the commission. Such  
20          subcommittees or working groups shall report to the commission and may include  
21          commission members and individuals with relevant subject-matter expertise who are  
22          not commission members.

23          C. The commission consists of the following members:

24               (1) One member appointed by the governor.

25               (2) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

26               (3) One member appointed by the president of the Senate.

27               (4) The state superintendent of education or his designee.

28               (5) One member appointed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
29          Education.

- 1           (6) One member appointed by the commissioner of higher education.
- 2           (7) The secretary of Louisiana Works or his designee.
- 3           (8) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development or his designee.
- 4           (9) One member from the Louisiana Parent Teacher Association appointed  
5 by the president of the association.
- 6           (10) One member from the Louisiana Association for the Education of  
7 Young Children appointed by the executive director of the association.
- 8           (11) One currently employed classroom teacher or expert in literacy  
9 instruction appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- 10          (12) One currently employed classroom teacher or expert in numeracy and  
11 mathematics instruction appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- 12          (13) One currently serving parish or city school superintendent appointed by  
13 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- 14          (14) The chief executive of Decoding Dyslexia Louisiana, or his designee.
- 15          (15) One member from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry  
16 appointed by the president of the association.
- 17          (16) One member from the Pelican Institute for Public Policy appointed by  
18 the chief executive officer of the institute.
- 19          (17) One member from a national nonprofit organization with demonstrated  
20 experience advising states on comprehensive education reform and evidence-based  
21 academic standards, appointed by the governor.
- 22          (18) One member from the Southeastern Louisiana University College of  
23 Education appointed by the dean of the college.
- 24          (19) One member from the Center for Literacy and Learning appointed by  
25 the president of the center.
- 26          (20) One member from the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children appointed  
27 by the chief executive officer of the institute.

1           D.(1) Members appointed pursuant to Paragraphs (C)(1) through (C)(8) of  
2           this Section shall serve for the duration of their respective terms of office or for a  
3           term concurrent with the term of the appointing authority, as applicable.

4           (2) Members listed in Paragraphs (C)(9) through (C)(19) of this Section shall  
5           serve three-year terms, except that for initial terms, such members shall serve  
6           staggered terms as follows:

7           (a) Members listed in Paragraphs (C)(9) through (C)(12) of this Section  
8           shall serve an initial term of one year.

9           (b) Members listed in Paragraphs (C)(13) through (C)(16) of this Section  
10          shall serve an initial term of two years.

11          (c) Members listed in Paragraphs (C)(17) through (C)(20) of this Section  
12          shall serve an initial term of three years.

13          (3) Any appointed member may be removed for cause by the appointing  
14          authority.

15          (4) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection.

16          E.(1) The state superintendent of education shall call the initial meeting no  
17          later than September 15, 2026.

18          (2) The commission shall elect a chair and vice chair.

19          (3) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and at such other times as  
20          determined necessary by the chair.

21          (4) Eight members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

22          (5) An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present shall be  
23          required for any official action.

24          (6) All meetings shall comply with the provisions of the Open Meetings  
25          Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq.

26          (7) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation except per  
27          diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as  
28          members of their constituent organizations.



by Sept. 15, 2026. Provides for staff support by the state Dept. of Education (DOE). Requires a report by Feb. 15th annually to the House and Senate education committees, governor, and State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Present law establishes the La. Literacy Advisory Commission for the purpose of providing recommendations for improving, strengthening, and supporting literacy and provides for staff support by DOE. Proposed law repeals present law and requires the department to provide for the transfer of the commission's records to the proposed law commission.

(Amends R.S. 36:651(F)(8); Adds R.S. 17:410.21; Repeals R.S. 17:410.11)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Increase commission's membership from 19 to 20.
2. Change commission's annual reporting deadline from March first to Feb. 15th.