

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1003

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to overcapacity of schools within certain school districts

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3982(B)(2)(a), and to enact R.S. 17:10.7.1(J), relative to  
3 certain schools returned from the Recovery School District; to provide relative to  
4 certain charter schools; to provide relative to overcapacity in a school district; to  
5 provide for reporting; to provide for the lease or sale of certain property; to provide  
6 for the powers and duties of a local school board; to provide for the powers and  
7 duties of a local superintendent; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for  
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3982(B)(2)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
11 17:10.7.1(J) is hereby enacted and to read as follows:

12 §10.7.1. Return of certain schools from the Recovery School District to the  
13 transferring school system; timeline; conditions; funding

14 \* \* \*

15 J.(1)(a) The local school board shall adopt a policy to define, monitor, and  
16 mitigate systemwide overcapacity relative to the number of operating schools in  
17 accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

18 (b) The policy shall establish quantitative standards for overcapacity of  
19 schools with jurisdiction over grades kindergarten through eight and schools with

1 jurisdiction over grades nine through twelve. At a minimum, the metrics for such  
2 standards shall include the following:

3 (i) Student enrollment projections.

4 (ii) Student demographic projections.

5 (iii) Programmatic seat capacity.

6 (iv) Facility utilization targets.

7 (c) The local superintendent shall submit a written report utilizing the most  
8 recent enrollment data available to the school board by November fifteenth annually.

9 The report shall include a formal determination of whether the district is in a status  
10 of overcapacity of schools with jurisdiction over grades kindergarten through eight,  
11 schools with jurisdiction over grades nine through twelve, or both categories of  
12 schools. An overcapacity status shall remain in effect until the local superintendent  
13 submits a report demonstrating such status no longer exists.

14 (d) Upon a determination of overcapacity, the local superintendent shall  
15 recommend to the school board specific actions to be implemented the following  
16 school year to mitigate overcapacity. The local superintendent shall submit the  
17 recommendations by December fifteenth of the same calendar year that the local  
18 superintendent submits the report pursuant to Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, or  
19 at the school board or committee meeting where charter renewal recommendations  
20 are presented, whichever occurs first. In determining the recommendations, the local  
21 superintendent shall consider relevant factors including but not limited to district  
22 accountability policies and academic performance standards.

23 (e) The local superintendent may implement recommendations submitted to  
24 the board pursuant to Subparagraph (d) of this Paragraph, unless the board rejects the  
25 recommendations by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the board within  
26 thirty days after submission of the recommendations to the board, or by  
27 December thirty-first of the same calendar year as submission of the  
28 recommendations to the board, whichever occurs first.



1 in R.S. 17:1990(C)(2)(a)(i). If such facilities were constructed at no cost to the local  
 2 school board, then such facilities including all equipment, books, instructional  
 3 materials, and furniture within such facilities shall be provided to the charter school  
 4 at no cost.

5 (ii) The provisions of this Subparagraph shall not apply to certain vacant  
 6 property as provided in R.S. 17:10.7.1(J).

7 \* \* \*

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

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#### 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)]

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HB 1003 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Freeman

**Abstract:** Requires a local school board to establish a policy relative to systemwide overcapacity.

Present law provides for the return of certain charter schools from the Recovery School District to the transferring local school system.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the local school board to adopt a policy relative to systemwide overcapacity of operating schools.

Requires the establishment of the following:

- (1) Standards for overcapacity of schools with jurisdiction over grades kindergarten through eight.
- (2) Standards for overcapacity of schools with jurisdiction over grades 9 through 12.
- (3) Metrics for such standards that include student enrollment projections, student demographic projections, programmatic seat capacity, and facility utilization targets.

Proposed law requires the local superintendent to submit a written report utilizing the most recent enrollment data available to the school board by Nov. 15th annually. Requires the local superintendent to include in the report the status of overcapacity of schools with jurisdiction over grades kindergarten through eight, schools with jurisdiction over grades 9 through 12, or both categories of schools.

Proposed law provides that if the local superintendent makes a determination of overcapacity, the local superintendent shall make recommendations to the board for specific actions to be implemented to mitigate such status by Dec. 15th. Provides that unless the board rejects the recommendations by a 2/3 vote within 30 days after submission or Dec. 31st, whichever occurs first, the local superintendent may implement the recommendations.

Proposed law authorizes the local school board to terminate a charter contract prior to its expiration for the purpose of addressing overcapacity. Prohibits a new school from opening that has jurisdiction over the grade levels in which overcapacity exists. Further provides that if the local school board changes the operator of an existing school due to failure to meet district academic performance standards, such school shall not be considered a new school for purposes of proposed law.

Present law (R.S. 17:3982(B)(2)(a)) requires the Orleans Parish School board to make available to chartering groups certain vacant property owned by the board for lease or purchase.

Proposed law exempts the board from such lease or sale if the vacancy occurs when a systemwide overcapacity status is in effect, if a recommendation of the local superintendent to otherwise utilize the property is approved by a majority vote of the board.

Effective upon signature of the governor.

(Amends R.S. 17:3982(B)(2)(a); Adds R.S. 17:10.7.1(J))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make technical changes.

#### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Specify that if a local school board changes the operator of an existing school due to failure to meet district academic performance standards, such school shall not be considered a new school for purposes of the proposed law prohibition on a new school opening during a status of overcapacity.
2. Remove requirement of a charter terminating and a school building being vacated for the purpose of reducing systemwide overcapacity as a condition of the ability to be exempt from present law relative to the lease or sale of a vacant school building.
3. Make proposed law effective upon signature by the governor.
4. Make technical changes.