
DIGEST

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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.