

SENATE BILL NO. 522 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 95 by Senator Edmonds)

BY SENATORS EDMONDS AND CARTER AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BOUDREAUX, CREWS, FREIBERG, OWEN AND VENTRELLA

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(i) and to enact R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(v) and
3 3991.2 and R.S. 51:934, relative to vocational and technical education; to provide for
4 charter schools; to authorize proposals for a vocational and technical education Type
5 2 charter school; to provide for resolutions from the State Board of Commerce and
6 Industry; to provide for definitions; to provide for enrollment; to provide for charter
7 governing authority board members; to provide for applications; to provide
8 agreements; to provide for restrictions; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(i) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:
11 3983(A)(2)(a)(v) and 3991.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §3983. Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental
13 approval

14 A.(1) * * *

15 (2)(a)(i) Each proposal for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school shall first be
16 made to the local school board with jurisdiction where the school is to be located,
17 except as provided for in Item (ii), (iii), ~~or (iv)~~, **or (v)** of this Subparagraph, by
18 submitting a written proposal. The applicant shall also provide notice of application
19 submission for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school to the state Department of
20 Education. If, after review as required by R.S. 17:3982, the local school board denies
21 the proposal, or if conditions placed on the proposal by the local school board as
22 provided in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section are not acceptable to the chartering
23 group, then a proposal for a Type 2 charter school may be made to the state board.

24 * * *

25 **(v) The initial proposal for a vocational and technical education charter**
26 **school, as provided in R.S. 17:3991.2, may be made to the state board as a**

1 proposal for a Type 2 charter school.

2 * * *

3 §3991.2. Vocational and technical education charter schools; enrollment
4 preferences; board membership

5 A. The legislature finds and declares that:

6 (1) The economic vitality of the state is dependent upon the education of
7 its people, including its current and future workforce.

8 (2) The performance of Louisiana's public education system is critical in
9 providing every Louisiana child with the ability to graduate, being equipped to
10 enter college or the workplace, in order to obtain a rewarding and self-
11 sustaining career and to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

12 (3) High-quality educational options are essential to the academic growth
13 of Louisiana's students and the ability of the state to expand existing businesses,
14 attract new businesses, and recruit and maintain a highly talented workforce.

15 (4) Manufacturing, industrial, technology, energy, utility, and other
16 sectors are all dependent on a workforce that has vocational training and
17 technical education.

18 (5) Providing students with access to classes or educational programs
19 directly aligned with high-demand and high-wage jobs will help provide
20 students with the experience and resources needed to help prepare them to be
21 effective employees and productive citizens.

22 (6) Encouraging and enhancing innovative vocational and technical
23 school curriculum models aligned with the state's workforce needs benefits the
24 state and its students.

25 B.(1) Notwithstanding geographic or other requirements for enrollment
26 contained in this Chapter, a charter agreement may provide, initially or by
27 amendment, for enrollment of students in a vocational and technical education
28 program.

29 (2)(a) Preference may be given to students whose parent or legal
30 guardian is employed or resides within the economic sector that is designated

1 by the State Board of Commerce and Industry through a resolution of support
2 for the vocational and technical charter school, as provided in R.S. 51:934. Up
3 to fifty percent of the school's maximum enrollment may be reserved for the
4 enrollment preference.

5 (b) The charter agreement shall specify both the school's maximum
6 enrollment and the maximum proportion set aside for implementation of this
7 enrollment preference.

8 (3) In addition to the applicable requirements in R.S. 17:3991, the
9 application must be accompanied by a resolution from the State Board of
10 Commerce and Industry, as provided in R.S. 51:934, that includes the following:

11 (a) The specialty vocational and technical education classes or programs
12 to be offered by the charter school and the manner in which they are aligned
13 with high-demand and high-wage jobs or determined as STAR Jobs by
14 Louisiana Works.

15 (b) The school's maximum total enrollment, as well as the maximum
16 number of students that may be enrolled into each specialty vocational and
17 technical education class or program.

18 (c) A statement that the charter school and any vocational and technical
19 education classes or programs offered by the charter school are not aligned with
20 any corporation or business entity that is identified in R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

21 (4)(a) A charter agreement may provide, initially or by amendment, for
22 board seats on its charter governing or management board to be held by various
23 industry representatives who are employed by or retired from a business
24 located within the economic sector or have served as an officer or director on
25 the board of such business. Such membership is subject to all other provisions
26 of law except those that are contrary to provisions in this Section and Chapter.

27 (b) For purposes of this Section, an industry representative may not be
28 an officer, board member, or employee of any corporation or legal entity that
29 is identified in R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

30 C. For the duration of the enrollment preference specified in Paragraph

1 (B)(1) of this Section, businesses located within the economic sector may enter
 2 into memorandums of understanding with the charter school and shall specify
 3 the methods by which the businesses may support the charter school, including
 4 but not limited to internships for students, career counseling, academic
 5 tutoring, or enrichment activities.

6 D.(1) An enrollment preference pursuant to Paragraph (B)(1) of this
 7 Section shall not be implemented in a way that displaces children enrolled at the
 8 school at the time the charter agreement or amendment providing for the
 9 preference is authorized.

10 (2) Enrollment at the school shall otherwise be as provided by this
 11 Chapter.

12 E. As used in this Section, "STAR Jobs" or "Strategic Targeted Area
 13 Resource Jobs" means those employment opportunities identified by the
 14 Louisiana Works Commission that have high-demand, high-wage jobs and are
 15 listed on the commission's website on the date of the application.

16 Section 2. R.S. 51:934 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17 §934. Resolutions of support for vocational and technical education charter
 18 schools; economic sectors

19 A. The legislature finds and declares that:

20 (1) Economic development and the economic vitality of the state are
 21 dependent upon an educated and highly trained workforce.

22 (2) Manufacturing, industrial, technology, energy, utility, and other
 23 sectors are all dependent on a workforce that has vocational training and
 24 technical education.

25 (3) High-quality educational options that include vocational and
 26 technical educations are essential to the academic growth of Louisiana's
 27 students and the ability of the state to attract businesses, maintain a highly
 28 talented workforce, and expand existing businesses.

29 B. A majority of the members of the State Board of Commerce and
 30 Industry may adopt a resolution in support of an application for a vocational

1 and technical education charter school, pursuant to R.S. 17:3991.2 . If the State
2 Board of Commerce and Industry adopts a resolution, the resolution shall
3 include all of the following:

4 (1) An economic sector where jobs require vocational and technical
5 education training classes and employment skills associated therewith.

6 (2) A list of the types of vocational and technical education training
7 classes or skills that are needed for employment in the economic sector.

8 C. Unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions shall apply to this
9 Section:

10 (1) "Economic sector" means the economic development district or the
11 parishes or geographic area surrounding a location where manufacturing,
12 industrial, technology, energy, utility, and other sector facilities are, or will be,
13 located that require vocational and technical education to support employment
14 at the facilities. However an economic sector may not be established to provide
15 training for a corporation identified in R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

16 (2) "Vocational and technical education charter schools" means those
17 charter schools governed by R.S. 17:3991.2.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____