

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 1203

2026 Regular Session

Edmonston

EDUCATION: Provides relative to parent-driven learning microschools

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes terminology from "parent-driven learning cooperative" to "parent-driven learning microschool".
2. Prohibits any governmental agency from requiring a microschool, or any parent participating in a microschool, to comply with any provision of present law contained in Title 17 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950 or to require that a microschool register or otherwise report to any governmental agency.
3. Changes terminology from "learning pod" to "public school learning pod".
4. Exempts parent-driven learning microschools and religious education activities from early learning center licensing requirements.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Parent-Driven Learning Microschools

Proposed law defines a "parent-driven learning microschool" (a "microschool") as a voluntary association of parents who choose to group their children together, regardless of age, for educational or instructional activities conducted at mutually agreed-upon times and days and which may include compensated or uncompensated parents, tutors, or instructors, for the purpose of providing a personalized learning experience for each student, and that meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Students in multiple grade levels participate for part or all of the school week, regardless of the time of day, week, or month.
- (2) Instruction occurs in a home, community space, library, learning center, or other nontraditional educational setting.

Proposed law provides the following:

- (1) If a building has met the occupancy requirements as a home, commercial establishment, or other classification of occupancy, then the use, rental, lease, or otherwise lawful possession of the building, whether in whole or in part, by a microschool shall not alter or change the zoning or occupancy classification of the building or subject the building to any additional building code requirements or fire safety regulations due to the fact that parents are making use of all or part of the building as a microschool.
- (2) No governmental agency shall take any of the following actions against a parent who participates in microschool or against a microschool:
 - (a) Restrict or deny the use of the building by parents or children, regardless of age, for the same or similar purposes as provided in present law (R.S. 13:5233.1), regardless of the day of the week, time, or number of hours of the day, or require compliance with present law relative to early learning center licensing or with any other present law in Title 17 of the La. Revised Statutes.

- (b) Require that a microschool register or otherwise report to any governmental agency.
- (3) Nothing in proposed law shall be construed to modify, supersede, or otherwise affect the laws governing religious educational programs conducted in churches or other religious institutions as provided in present law (R.S. 13:5233.1).
- (4) Nothing in present law or proposed law shall be construed to supersede, limit, or diminish the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, present constitution (Art. I, §8), or present law (Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, R.S. 13:5231 et seq.), all of which shall prevail in the event of any conflict with any provision of proposed law.

Early Learning Center Licensing

Present law provides for the licensing of early learning centers by the state Dept. of Education and exempts certain entities from licensing requirements. Proposed law adds an exemption for parent-driving learning microschools as provided in proposed law and religious education activities as provided in present law.

Learning Pods

Present law authorizes each public school governing authority to establish learning pods as an extension of any school under its jurisdiction. Proposed law retains present law but changes the term from "learning pods" to "public school learning pods".

Proposed law directs the La. State Law Institute to make technical changes in present law relative to public school learning pods to conform with proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:4036.1(A) through (C); Adds R.S. 17:236.4 and 407.35(D))