

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 687 (HB 1003)

2026 Regular Session

Freeman

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

New law requires the local school board to adopt a policy relative to systemwide overcapacity relative to the number of operating schools. Requires that the policy establish each 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 nine through 12.
- (3) Metrics for such standards that include student enrollment projections, student demographic projections, programmatic seat capacity, and facility utilization targets.

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

New law provides that if the local superintendent makes a determination of overcapacity, he shall make recommendations to the board for specific actions to be implemented to mitigate overcapacity 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, he may implement the recommendations.

New law provides the following when a status of overcapacity is in effect:

- (1) Authorizes the local school board to terminate a charter contract prior to its expiration for the purpose of addressing overcapacity.
- (2) Prohibits a new school from opening that has jurisdiction over the grade levels in which overcapacity exists. Provides that if the local school board changes the operator of an existing school due to failure to meet district academic performance standards, the school shall not be considered a new school for purposes of new law.
- (3) Provides that if a school building is vacated, upon recommendation of the local superintendent approved by a majority vote of the local school board, the school district shall be exempt from existing law (R.S. 17:3982(B)(2)), which requires the Orleans Parish School Board to make certain vacant property available to chartering groups.

Existing law (R.S. 17:3982(B)(2)) requires, as noted above, the Orleans Parish School Board to make available to chartering groups certain vacant property owned by the board for lease or purchase. New law adds an exception to existing law by providing that existing law does not apply to property that becomes vacant when a status of overcapacity is in effect as provided in new law.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 1, 2026).

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