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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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Nevers

SB No. 733

Proposed law requires BESE, upon request of a local school board, to allow and assist teachers, principals, and other school administrators to create and foster an environment within public elementary and secondary schools that promotes critical thinking skills, logical analysis, and open and objective discussion of scientific theories being studied including evolution, the origins of life, global warming, and human cloning.

Provides that such assistance shall include support and guidance for teachers regarding effective ways to help students understand, analyze, critique, and objectively review such scientific theories being studied.

Provides that a teacher shall teach material presented in the standard textbook supplied by the school system and thereafter may use textbooks and other instructional materials to help students understand, analyze, critique, and review scientific theories in an objective manner, as permitted by the local school board unless otherwise prohibited by BESE.

Provides that proposed law shall not be construed to promote any religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a particular set of religious beliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religion or nonreligion.

Requires BESE and local school boards to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement proposed law prior to the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:285.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Specifies the scientific theories being studied include evolution, the origins of life, global warming, and human cloning.
2. Requires a teacher to first teach material presented in the standard textbook supplied by the school system and then authorizes him to use supplemental textbooks and other instructional materials.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill.

1. Adds a stipulation to the authority of teachers to use textbooks and other materials relative to scientific theories as permitted by local school boards that they have such authority unless otherwise prohibited by BESE.