

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 358

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

SCHOOLS/TRANSPORTATION: Provides relative to school bus transportation for nonpublic school students in certain parishes

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:158(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:158(J), relative to school
3 transportation; to provide relative to the requirement that school boards provide free
4 transportation for certain students; to exempt school boards in certain parishes from
5 this requirement as applied to nonpublic school students under certain circumstances;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:158(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:158(J)
9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;
11 alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds;
12 exceptions

13 A.(1) Except as provided by ~~Subsection~~ Subsections H and J of this Section
14 and in accordance with the requirements of Subsection F of this Section, each city,
15 parish, and other local public school board shall provide free transportation for any
16 student attending a school of suitable grade approved by the State Board of
17 Elementary and Secondary Education within the jurisdictional boundaries of the
18 local board if the student resides more than one mile from such school. This
19 requirement shall not apply to any student attending a nonpublic school pursuant to
20 R.S. 17:4011 through 4025.

21 * * *

1 J. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, a city,
2 parish, or other local public school board in a parish having a population of not less
3 than one hundred ten thousand persons and not more than one hundred fifteen
4 thousand persons according to the latest federal decennial census shall not be
5 required to provide free transportation for any student attending a nonpublic school
6 if either the cost incurred or distance traveled in providing such transportation
7 exceeds the board's per student average cost incurred or distance traveled in
8 providing transportation for students attending public schools.

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)]

Harrison

HB No. 358

Abstract: Exempts, under certain circumstances, school boards in certain parishes from the requirement that they provide free transportation for nonpublic school students.

Present law requires each local public school board to provide free transportation for students attending any school (public or nonpublic) that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and located within the school board's jurisdictional boundaries if the student resides more than one mile from the school. Excepts students attending nonpublic schools through the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

Proposed law creates an additional exception to present law for a school board in a parish with a population between 110,000-115,000 persons by providing that it shall not be required to provide free transportation for any student attending a nonpublic school if either the cost incurred or distance traveled exceeds that for providing transportation for students attending public schools.

(Amends R.S. 17:158(A)(1); Adds R.S. 17:158(J))