
DIGEST

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Alfred Williams

HB No. 948

Abstract: Provides with respect to the removal of certain schools from the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District and the return of such schools to their local districts.

Present law provides with respect to school accountability. Further provides that an elementary or secondary school operating under the jurisdiction of any city, parish, or local public school board or any other public entity which is academically unacceptable under a uniform statewide program of school accountability shall be designated as a failed school. Further provides that such a school shall be removed from the jurisdiction of the city, parish, or other local public board or other public entity and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District established in present law (R.S. 17:1990) under certain conditions.

Present law provides that the Recovery School District shall retain the jurisdiction of any school transferred it pursuant to present law for a period of not less than five years, not including the school year if the transfer occurred during a school year. Further provides that, no later than five months prior to the expiration of the five-year period, the Recovery School District shall make a report to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) which shall contain certain elements. Also provides that, no later than six months prior to the expiration of the five-year period, BESE shall take action on the recommendations of the Recovery School District. Any action that results in an affirmative agreement to retain the school in the Recovery School District shall retain the school in the district for an additional five-year period, unless a lesser time is adopted by the state board. The report required by present law and the action required in present law shall occur no later than six months prior to each period of continuation.

Present law provides that, notwithstanding the provisions of present law, a school that is directly operated by the Recovery School District and that has not been identified for conversion to a charter school pursuant to a charter contract between BESE and a nonprofit charter organization shall be removed from the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District and returned to the administration and management of the school system from which it was transferred if the return is requested by a petition of parents and such return is approved by BESE and the respective local school board and certain other conditions are met.

Proposed law removes provisions that except schools identified for conversion to charter schools from being removed from the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District and returned to the administration and management of the school system from which they were transferred.

Present law provides as one of the conditions that the school has received a letter grade of "D" or

"F" pursuant to the La. School and District Accountability System, for five consecutive years while under the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District. Proposed law changes five consecutive years to three consecutive years; otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:10.5(G)(1)(intro. para.) and (b))