

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 303 (SB 335)

2016 Regular Session

Claitor

New law prohibits public schools, including charter schools, from requiring the parent or legal guardian of a student to disclose medical information or special education needs prior to enrolling the student, unless otherwise specifically required by law. Allows public schools to provide an enrollment preference to a student with special needs when the student's parent or legal guardian voluntarily provides the school with such information.

New law authorizes certain persons to petition a local school board by December 31, 2017, to determine if the person is eligible to receive a high school diploma. Requires that the person making the petition be no longer enrolled in a public school but identified as a student with an exceptionality, except a gifted or talented student, and who previously failed to receive a diploma or was denied graduation solely for failing to meet BESE exit exam requirements.

Requires the local school board to transmit the diploma requests to the state Department of Education (department) and provides that the person receiving the diploma not be counted as a graduate in any graduation rate calculations for affected schools and districts, including calculations for any prior year.

New law requires the department, no later than January 31, 2018, to make a written report to BESE and the legislative education committees on the number of diplomas granted by school district.

Requires BESE to promulgate rules for implementing new law and disseminate a copy of the procedures and guidelines for submitting petitions under new law to the local school system no later than 90 days after the effective date of new law. Requires that the procedures and guidelines include the eligibility criteria for submitting a petition; the petition process, including but not limited to the deadline for submitting a petition and all other applicable deadlines; and a contact name and phone number at the department available to persons submitting petitions.

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 2, 2016).

(Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(5), 154.2, and 3991(E)(6))