

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 656

2018 Regular Session

Emerson

STUDENTS: Provides relative to literacy screenings for students

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Add requirement that students scoring below grade level be considered for additional resources.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides that each governing authority of a public elementary school shall implement a reading program at each school designed and intended to teach each student to read at grade level by the end of the first grade. Provides that not later than 30 days after the beginning of each school year, each second grade teacher and each third grade teacher shall report the number of students in the teacher's class who cannot read at grade level. Provides that copies of this report shall be sent simultaneously by the teacher to the principal and local superintendent.

Proposed law changes requirement so that each second grade student and third grade student shall be administered a literacy screener to identify the number of students who read below, at, and above grade level. Provides that students scoring above grade level be considered for evaluation into a gifted program and students scoring below grade level be considered for additional resources. Further provides that, not later than 45 days after the beginning of the school year, a literacy screening report describing the number of students who read below, at, and above grade level shall be sent simultaneously by the teacher to the principal and local superintendent. Also provides that the report include the number of children referred to gifted evaluation as a result of their screening results.

Present law provides that, not later than 60 days after the beginning of each school year, the information required to be submitted by the teachers shall be forwarded by each local superintendent to the state superintendent and to the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that not later than 90 days after the beginning of each school year, BESE shall compile and submit a report to the House and Senate education committees showing for each public elementary school and each school system and for the state as a whole the number of students in second or third grade who cannot read at grade level. Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the state Dept. of Education, in times of crisis or natural disaster, to extend deadlines for administration and reporting results of the screening instruments.

Proposed law provides that present law and proposed law provisions relative to literacy screenings are applicable to charter schools.

(Amends R.S. 17:182(B); Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(45))