2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVE PUGH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana. MTR VEHICLE/BUSES-SCHOOL: Revises provisions related to school buses

| 1 | AN ACT |
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| 2 | To amend and reenact R.S. 17:164 and to enact R.S. 17:3996(A)(18), (19), and (20), relative |
| 3 | to school buses; to revise the authorities from which regulations relating to |
| 4 | construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses are derived; to add |
| 5 | areas to the list from which charter school operations are not exempt; and to provide |
| 6 | for related matters. |
| 7 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: |
| 8 | Section 1. R.S. 17:164 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3996(A)(18), |
| 9 | (19), and (20) are hereby enacted to read as follows: |
| 10 | §164. Regulations relating to construction, design, equipment, and operation of |
| 11 | school busses |
| 12 | The Louisiana state board of education is authorized, directed, and |
| 13 | empowered to establish and adopt regulations relating to the construction, design, |
| 14 | equipment, and operation of school busses used in transportation of students to and |
| 15 | from school. Such regulations shall be provided to encourage competition and in no |
| 16 | event shall be devised, worded, or construed so as to restrict competition among |
| 17 | manufacturers of school bus bodies, chassis, or other equipment or to benefit or favor |
| 18 | in any way a particular manufacturer or group of manufacturers of such bus bodies, |
| 19 | chassis, or other equipment, either directly by reference to detail of design peculiar |
| 20 | to a particular manufacturer or group of manufacturers; providing, any school bus |

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

| 1 | body, chassis, or equipment that meets the latest revised minimum standards for |
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| 2 | school buses adopted and recommended by the National Conference Congress on |
| 3 | School Transportation, sponsored by the National Council of Chief State School |
| 4 | Officers, the American Association of School Administrators, NEA, the Department |
| 5 | of Rural Education, NEA, and the U.S. Office of Education National Association of |
| 6 | State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, the National Association for Pupil |
| 7 | Transportation, the National School Transportation Association, the School |
| 8 | Transportation section of the National Safety Council, and the School Bus |
| 9 | Manufacturers Technical Council, shall be deemed in compliance with any such |
| 10 | regulations adopted by the Louisiana state board of education; providing such rules |
| 11 | and regulations as heretofore provided for shall not apply to any feeder busses in |
| 12 | operation in the State and shall not conflict with the Louisiana Department of |
| 13 | Education or statutory requirements for the design, construction, and operation of |
| 14 | school buses or requirements for school bus operators. |
| 15 | * * * |
| 16 | §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements |
| 17 | A. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and |
| 18 | except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a |
| 19 | charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this |
| 20 | Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be |
| 21 | exempt from all rules and regulations of the state board and those of any local school |
| 22 | board that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and |
| 23 | employees except for the following rules and regulations otherwise applicable to |
| 24 | public schools regarding: |
| 25 | * * * |
| 26 | (18) Louisiana school bus specifications and inspection requirements. |
| 27 | (19) Louisiana school bus operational procedures. |

| 1 | (20) School bus driver and bus attendant pre-employment screening and |
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| 2 | training requirements as specified in the Louisiana Board of Elementary and |
| 3 | Secondary Education Bulletin 119 and Bulletin 126. |
| 4 | * * * |

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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Abstract: Revises the authorities from which regulations relating to construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses are derived. Adds areas to the list from which charter school operations are not exempt.

<u>Present law</u> provides regulations relating to construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses.

<u>Proposed law</u> modifies <u>present law</u> by changing the authorities for which the standards are adopted and recommended <u>from</u> the National Conference on School Transportation, the National Council of Chief State School Officers, the American Assn. of School Administrators, NEA, the Dept. of Rural Education, NEA, and the U.S. Office of Education to the National Congress on School Transportation, the National Assn. of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, the National Assn. for Pupil Transportation, the National School Transportation Assn., the School Transportation section of the National Safety Council and the School Bus Manufacturers' Technical Council.

<u>Proposed law</u> further provides that the adopted regulations must not conflict with the La. Dept. of Education or statutory requirements for the design, construction, and operation of school buses or requirements for bus operators.

<u>Present law</u> provides a list or rules and regulations for which charter school operations are not exempt.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds La. school bus specifications and inspection requirements, La. school bus operational procedures, and school bus driver and bus attendant pre-employment screening and training requirements as specified in the La. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Bulletin 119 and 126 to the list of rules and regulations for which charter school operations are not exempt.

(Amends R.S. 17:164; Adds R.S. 17:3996(A)(18), (19), and (20))