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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

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DIGEST

SB 128 Original

2019 Regular Session

Milkovich

Present law provides for the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program and requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt state content standards for required subjects and develop state assessments based upon those standards.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school shall have the authority to adopt and implement the content standards and related assessments it determines best serves the educational needs of the students it serves.

Proposed law prohibits BESE and the state Dept. of Education (DOE) from requiring any public school governing authority to implement the Common Core state standards or any other content standards adopted by the board. Additionally prohibits BESE from requiring schools and school districts to participate in the administration of any state tests or assessments.

Proposed law provides that, upon receipt of a petition signed by at least 10% of the registered voters residing within the geographic boundaries of a school district, the local school board shall provide for an election whereby the people shall choose whether state content standards and assessments or locally adopted content standards and assessments will be used in district schools.

Proposed law provides that in the case of a charter school, upon receipt of a petition signed by at least 10% of the parents who have children enrolled in the school, the charter school governing authority shall provide for a process whereby the parents of the children enrolled in the school shall be able to vote on whether state content standards and assessments or content standards and assessments adopted by the school's governing authority will be used in the school.

Present law provides that charter schools shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, and employment practices. Proposed law removes the prohibition against sectarian programs.

Present law provides for the Students Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP) which provides scholarships to certain students in failing public schools to use at approved nonpublic schools. To be eligible to participate in SSEEP, the nonpublic schools must meet certain requirements and ensure that scholarship recipients are administered all examinations required by the school and district accountability rules and provide the results of these examinations to the parents or legal guardians of scholarship recipients.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state DOE from requiring a nonpublic school to adhere to state content standards or administer any examination

required by the school and district accountability system as a condition of eligibility to participate in the program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3991(C)(5) and 4016(A); adds R.S. 17:24.4(E)(7) and 4021(D); repeals 4015(7)(a), 4023, and 4024(A)(5))