

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

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~~ buses

12 The Louisiana state board of education is authorized, directed<sub>2</sub> and  
13 empowered to establish and adopt regulations relating to the construction, design,  
14 equipment<sub>2</sub> and operation of school ~~busses~~ buses used in transportation of students  
15 to and from school. Such regulations shall be provided to encourage competition and  
16 in no event shall be devised, worded<sub>2</sub> or construed so as to restrict competition  
17 among manufacturers of school bus bodies, chassis<sub>2</sub> or other equipment or to benefit  
18 or favor in any way a particular manufacturer or group of manufacturers of such bus  
19 bodies, chassis<sub>2</sub> or other equipment, either directly by reference to detail of design  
20 peculiar to a particular manufacturer or group of manufacturers; providing, any

1 school bus body, chassis, or equipment that meets the latest revised minimum  
 2 standards for school buses adopted and recommended by the National ~~Conference~~  
 3 Congress on School Transportation, sponsored by the ~~National Council of Chief~~  
 4 ~~State School Officers, the American Association of School Administrators, NEA, the~~  
 5 ~~Department of Rural Education, NEA, and the U.S. Office of Education~~ National  
 6 Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, the National  
 7 Association for Pupil Transportation, the National School Transportation  
 8 Association, the School Transportation section of the National Safety Council, and  
 9 the School Bus Manufacturers Technical Council, shall be deemed in compliance  
 10 with any such regulations adopted by the Louisiana state board of education;  
 11 providing such rules and regulations as heretofore provided for shall not apply to any  
 12 feeder ~~busses~~ buses in operation in the State and shall not conflict with the Louisiana  
 13 Department of Education or statutory requirements for the design, construction, and  
 14 operation of school buses or requirements for school bus operators.

\* \* \*

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:

\* \* \*

26 (18) Louisiana school bus specifications and inspection requirements.

27 (19) Louisiana school bus operational procedures.

