
DIGEST

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HB 321 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Simon

Abstract: Authorizes the adoption of policies relative to student attendance at virtual schools.

Present law requires that a student who is habitually absent from or tardy to school be reported to the family or juvenile court as a truant child.

Present law defines a "virtual school" as a public school, including a charter school, that has a unique site code assigned by the state Dept. of Education and delivers all or a majority of instruction through the internet or other electronic medium such that a student is not necessarily required to be at a specific location in order to receive instruction from a teacher. Proposed law adds the following relative to defining attendance at virtual schools:

- (1) Authorizes each local public school board to adopt a policy defining attendance for purposes of compliance with present law relative to students who are habitually absent or tardy.
- (2) Authorizes each chartering authority to adopt in policy or include in charter agreements a definition of attendance, which may include provisions for addressing excessive absences, such as parental notification, student engagement and withdrawal from the school for failure to engage, and referrals to child welfare and attendance officers and family or juvenile courts.

(Amends R.S. 17:236.3)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add provisions relative to student engagement to the illustrative list of provisions that a chartering authority may include in policies or charter agreements relative to addressing excessive absences.