

DIGEST

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SB 158 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Donahue

Proposed law requires each local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school or other public school to establish a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources and engage in community outreach.

Proposed law provides that the number of members and composition of the council shall be determined by the local public school superintendent or the administrative head of each charter or other public school and provides that:

- (1) 50% shall be parents of students with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented.
- (2) 25% shall be teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals.
- (3) 25% shall be other special education stakeholders.

Proposed law provides that each local public school superintendent and administrative head of a charter or other public school shall seek applications for council membership from parents of students with an exceptionality. Requires that an effort be made to include parents of students in elementary, middle, and high school grades.

Proposed law requires the local public school superintendent or administrative head of the charter school or other public school to designate the chairperson of the council who shall call the council's meetings, preside over the meetings, and establish the agendas for the meetings.

Proposed law provides that each special education advisory council shall meet at least three times a year and shall annually submit a report to the superintendent or the administrative head of the charter school or other public school regarding its activities.

Proposed law provides that there shall be no liability or cause of action against the public school district, public charter school or other public school, or any officer or employee thereof for any action taken by members of the council.

(Adds R.S. 17:1944.1 and 3996(B)(54))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Revises council membership.
2. Reduces number of meetings and reports.
3. Clarifies that proposed law applies to charter school governing authorities.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.

2. Changes the appointing authority from the public school governing authority to the local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter or other public school.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove requirement that the local superintendent and administrative head of the charter or other school seek applications from teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and other stakeholders.
2. Add requirement that the local public school superintendent or administrative head of the charter school or other public school designate the chairperson of the council who shall call the council's meetings, preside over the meetings, and establish the agendas for the meetings.
3. Add that there shall be no liability or cause of action against the public school district, public charter school or other public school, or any officer or employee thereof for any action taken by members of the council.