

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 377 (HB 156)

2019 Regular Session

Pugh

Existing law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt regulations for the construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses. Prior law provided that a school bus that met the latest revised minimum standards for school buses adopted and recommended by certain national entities was deemed to be in compliance with the BESE regulations. New law instead requires that a school bus meet such minimum standards, BESE regulations, and all statutory requirements for the construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses. New law changes references to the national groups and associations that have adopted the most recent revised minimum standards for school buses.

New law provides that state laws and regulations relative to the construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses apply to charter schools. Further provides that BESE rules and regulations relative to school bus specifications and inspection requirements, operational procedures, and school bus operator and bus attendant pre-employment screening and training requirements apply to charter schools.

Existing law prohibits a school bus operator from engaging in a call on a cellular radio telecommunication device while driving a school bus. Provides exceptions in certain emergency situations. Defines cellular radio telecommunication device. Specifies that citizens band radios and citizens band radio hybrids are not cellular radio telecommunication devices. New law adds that a device with a push-to-talk function used in a similar manner as a citizens band radio is not a cellular radio telecommunication device.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 17:164 and R.S. 32:289(B); Adds R.S. 17:3996(A)(18), (19), and (20) and (B)(54))