HLS 202ES-119 ORIGINAL

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 58

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BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to the requirements for school instructional time (Item #42)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:154.1(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:154.1(C), relative to

minimum requirements for instructional time for students in public schools; to

provide for the meaning of instructional time; to provide for applicability of such

requirements under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:154.1(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:154.1(C)

is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§154.1. Length of school day and year; requirements

A.(1)(a) The minimum school day for grades one through twelve in every public school in the state shall consist of three hundred sixty minutes of instructional time, exclusive of all recesses. The minimum school year shall consist of one hundred seventy-seven days of instruction. However, in order to provide teacher training, provide for the safety and well-being of students, or implement other educational reform efforts, any governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may authorize some or all of its schools to modify the total number of instructional minutes per day and instructional days per year as long as the total number of instructional minutes per year is no less than the minimum number of instructional days as required by this Section.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1 (b) Instructional time shall consist of the scheduled time within the regular 2 school day devoted to teaching courses outlined in the program of studies. (c) Instructional time shall not include: 3 4 (i) Time for lunch. 5 (ii) Time for parent-teacher conferences. 6 (iii) Time for schoolwide teacher training and professional development. 7 (iv) Time between classes. 8 (v) Time in which students are assigned independent, ungraded work or 9 enrichment activities when students are not participating in in-person or virtual 10 instruction led by a classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or assigned school staff 11 member. 12 13 C. If a natural disaster or an emergency declared by the governor prevents 14 a school from meeting instructional time requirements during the regularly scheduled 15 school year, the school's governing authority shall utilize all available instructional 16 formats and modified school schedules, including but not limited to extended school 17 days and an extended school year, to ensure students receive the minimum required instructional time. Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to prohibit the 18 19 governor from suspending instructional time requirements if he declares a natural 20 disaster or an emergency pursuant to R.S. 29:724.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 58 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Thomas

Abstract: Provides relative to the minimum requirements for instructional time at public schools.

<u>Present law</u>, applicable to public school grades 1 - 12, requires that a school day consist of at least 360 minutes of instructional time, exclusive of all recesses, and a school year consist of at least 177 days of instruction. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>.

Proposed law provides that instructional time does not include any of the following:

- (1) Independent, ungraded work and enrichment activities that are not led by a teacher or staff member.
- (2) Lunch.
- (3) Parent-teacher conferences.
- (4) Schoolwide teacher training and professional development.
- (5) Time between classes.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires public school governing authorities to use modified instructional formats and schedules to ensure students receive the minimum required instructional time pursuant to <u>present law</u> regardless of a natural disaster or an emergency declared by the governor.

(Amends R.S. 17:154.1(A)(1); Adds R.S. 17:154.1(C))