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## DIGEST

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HB 373 Original

2025 Regular Session

Hughes

**Abstract:** Requires the La. Workforce Investment Council to conduct an annual return on investment analysis on industry-based credentials earned in high school and provides for the collection and sharing of certain student data for this purpose.

Proposed law requires the La. Workforce Investment Council (WIC) to perform an annual return on investment (ROI) analysis for the purpose of evaluating the relationship between industry-based credentials earned by high school students and the students' attainment of high-wage, high-demand jobs that are aligned to state workforce priorities. Requires the council to submit a written report to the House and Senate education and labor committees and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education by Feb. first annually and prohibits the council from including any student's personally identifiable information (PII) in the report.

Present law prohibits any employee of a public school system from providing a student's PII to any person or public or private entity. Provides exceptions to this prohibition and authorizes sharing student information under certain circumstances. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the governing authority of each public high school, not later than the beginning of senior year and for the sole purpose of evaluating state and federal programs that prepare students for postsecondary education, workforce training, and employment, to collect social security numbers of each student pursuing a diploma. Proposed law includes the proposed law ROI analysis in this purpose, requires such governing authorities to share the social security numbers with the state Dept. of Education and for the department to share them with WIC, and requires the department and WIC to hold the numbers confidential except for this purpose.

Present law requires the student's permission for the collection of his social security number if he has reached the age of majority or parental permission if he has not. Present Law requires schools to provide a form for granting such permission. Proposed law removes present law.

Present law prohibits an official or employee of a public school system from requiring the collection of certain student information, including social security numbers, unless voluntarily disclosed by the parent or legal guardian. Proposed law removes the prohibition on requiring the collection of social security numbers and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3913(N)(1)(a); Adds R.S. 17:3138.13; Repeals R.S. 17:3914(C)(1)(j) and (N)(1)(c))