

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: Provides for a State Seal of Fine Arts to recognize high school graduates who meet certain academic eligibility criteria

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:273.5, relative to high school diplomas; to create a State Seal of Fine Arts;
3 to provide for academic eligibility criteria; to provide for requirements of the state
4 superintendent of education, participating school governing authorities, and the State
5 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:273.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §273.5. State Seal of Fine Arts

9 A. The State Seal of Fine Arts, referred to in this Section as the "seal",
10 certifies that a student meets all of the following criteria:

11 (1) Completion of four credits in the same arts discipline, such as music,
12 dance, visual arts, theater, media arts, or culinary arts.

13 (2) A minimum grade point average of 3.00 for the arts credits completed.

14 (3) Completion of an arts-related capstone performance or portfolio.

15 B. The state superintendent of education shall do the following:

16 (1) Prepare and deliver to participating school governing authorities an
17 appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of a student who has
18 earned the seal.

19 (2) Provide other information he deems necessary for school governing
20 authorities to successfully participate in the seal program.

1 C. A participating public school governing authority shall maintain
2 appropriate records in order to identify students who have earned the seal and affix
3 the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each student who earns the
4 seal.

5 D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
6 promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement
7 the provisions of this Section, including but not limited to requirements for a
8 capstone performance or portfolio as provided for in Paragraph (A)(3) of this
9 Section.

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 201 Original

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McMakin

Abstract: Creates a diploma endorsement for students and provides for requirements relative to arts education.

Proposed law creates the State Seal of Fine Arts to be affixed on the high school diploma or transcript of a graduate who meets certain criteria and graduates from a school under the jurisdiction of a participating public school governing authority.

Proposed law requires the state superintendent of education to prepare and deliver an appropriate insignia to participating school governing authorities.

Proposed law requires a participating public school governing authority to maintain records to identify students who meet all the criteria for earning the seal, including completion of four credits in the same arts discipline and completion of an arts-related capstone performance or portfolio.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate rules for the implementation of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 17:273.5)