

SENATE BILL NO. 522 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 95 by Senator Edmonds)

BY SENATORS EDMONDS AND CARTER AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BOUDREAUX, CREWS, FREIBERG, OWEN AND VENTRELLA

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(i) and to enact R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(v) and  
3 3991.2 and R.S. 51:934, relative to vocational and technical education; to provide for  
4 charter schools; to authorize proposals for a vocational and technical education Type  
5 2 charter school; to provide for resolutions from the State Board of Commerce and  
6 Industry; to provide for definitions; to provide for enrollment; to provide for charter  
7 governing authority board members; to provide for applications; to provide  
8 agreements; to provide for restrictions; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(i) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:  
11 3983(A)(2)(a)(v) and 3991.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §3983. Chartering process by type; eligibility; limitations; faculty approval; parental  
13 approval

14 A.(1) \* \* \*

15 (2)(a)(i) Each proposal for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school shall first be  
16 made to the local school board with jurisdiction where the school is to be located,  
17 except as provided for in Item (ii), (iii), or (iv), or (v) of this Subparagraph, by  
18 submitting a written proposal. The applicant shall also provide notice of application  
19 submission for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school to the state Department of  
20 Education. If, after review as required by R.S. 17:3982, the local school board denies  
21 the proposal, or if conditions placed on the proposal by the local school board as  
22 provided in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section are not acceptable to the chartering  
23 group, then a proposal for a Type 2 charter school may be made to the state board.

24 \* \* \*

25 (v) The initial proposal for a vocational and technical education charter  
26 school, as provided in R.S. 17:3991.2, may be made to the state board as a

1 proposal for a Type 2 charter school.

2 \* \* \*

3 §3991.2. Vocational and technical education charter schools; enrollment  
4 preferences; board membership

5 A. The legislature finds and declares that:

6 (1) The economic vitality of the state is dependent upon the education of  
7 its people, including its current and future workforce.

8 (2) The performance of Louisiana's public education system is critical in  
9 providing every Louisiana child with the ability to graduate, being equipped to  
10 enter college or the workplace, in order to obtain a rewarding and self-  
11 sustaining career and to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

12 (3) High-quality educational options are essential to the academic growth  
13 of Louisiana's students and the ability of the state to expand existing businesses,  
14 attract new businesses, and recruit and maintain a highly talented workforce.

15 (4) Manufacturing, industrial, technology, energy, utility, and other  
16 sectors are all dependent on a workforce that has vocational training and  
17 technical education.

18 (5) Providing students with access to classes or educational programs  
19 directly aligned with high-demand and high-wage jobs will help provide  
20 students with the experience and resources needed to help prepare them to be  
21 effective employees and productive citizens.

22 (6) Encouraging and enhancing innovative vocational and technical  
23 school curriculum models aligned with the state's workforce needs benefits the  
24 state and its students.

25 B.(1) Notwithstanding geographic or other requirements for enrollment  
26 contained in this Chapter, a charter agreement may provide, initially or by  
27 amendment, for enrollment of students in a vocational and technical education  
28 program.

29 (2)(a) Preference may be given to students whose parent or legal  
30 guardian is employed or resides within the economic sector that is designated

1 by the State Board of Commerce and Industry through a resolution of support  
2 for the vocational and technical charter school, as provided in R.S. 51:934. Up  
3 to fifty percent of the school's maximum enrollment may be reserved for the  
4 enrollment preference.

5 (b) The charter agreement shall specify both the school's maximum  
6 enrollment and the maximum proportion set aside for implementation of this  
7 enrollment preference.

8 (3) In addition to the applicable requirements in R.S. 17:3991, the  
9 application must be accompanied by a resolution from the State Board of  
10 Commerce and Industry, as provided in R.S. 51:934, that includes the following:

11 (a) The specialty vocational and technical education classes or programs  
12 to be offered by the charter school and the manner in which they are aligned  
13 with high-demand and high-wage jobs or determined as STAR Jobs by  
14 Louisiana Works.

15 (b) The school's maximum total enrollment, as well as the maximum  
16 number of students that may be enrolled into each specialty vocational and  
17 technical education class or program.

18 (c) A statement that the charter school and any vocational and technical  
19 education classes or programs offered by the charter school are not aligned with  
20 any corporation or business entity that is identified in R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

21 (4)(a) A charter agreement may provide, initially or by amendment, for  
22 board seats on its charter governing or management board to be held by various  
23 industry representatives who are employed by or retired from a business  
24 located within the economic sector or have served as an officer or director on  
25 the board of such business. Such membership is subject to all other provisions  
26 of law except those that are contrary to provisions in this Section and Chapter.

27 (b) For purposes of this Section, an industry representative may not be  
28 an officer, board member, or employee of any corporation or legal entity that  
29 is identified in R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

30 C. For the duration of the enrollment preference specified in Paragraph

1 (B)(1) of this Section, businesses located within the economic sector may enter  
 2 into memorandums of understanding with the charter school and shall specify  
 3 the methods by which the businesses may support the charter school, including  
 4 but not limited to internships for students, career counseling, academic  
 5 tutoring, or enrichment activities.

6 D.(1) An enrollment preference pursuant to Paragraph (B)(1) of this  
 7 Section shall not be implemented in a way that displaces children enrolled at the  
 8 school at the time the charter agreement or amendment providing for the  
 9 preference is authorized.

10 (2) Enrollment at the school shall otherwise be as provided by this  
 11 Chapter.

12 E. As used in this Section, "STAR Jobs" or "Strategic Targeted Area  
 13 Resource Jobs" means those employment opportunities identified by the  
 14 Louisiana Works Commission that have high-demand, high-wage jobs and are  
 15 listed on the commission's website on the date of the application.

16 Section 2. R.S. 51:934 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17 §934. Resolutions of support for vocational and technical education charter  
 18 schools; economic sectors

19 A. The legislature finds and declares that:

20 (1) Economic development and the economic vitality of the state are  
 21 dependent upon an educated and highly trained workforce.

22 (2) Manufacturing, industrial, technology, energy, utility, and other  
 23 sectors are all dependent on a workforce that has vocational training and  
 24 technical education.

25 (3) High-quality educational options that include vocational and  
 26 technical educations are essential to the academic growth of Louisiana's  
 27 students and the ability of the state to attract businesses, maintain a highly  
 28 talented workforce, and expand existing businesses.

29 B. A majority of the members of the State Board of Commerce and  
 30 Industry may adopt a resolution in support of an application for a vocational

1 and technical education charter school, pursuant to R.S. 17:3991.2 . If the State  
2 Board of Commerce and Industry adopts a resolution, the resolution shall  
3 include all of the following:

4 (1) An economic sector where jobs require vocational and technical  
5 education training classes and employment skills associated therewith.

6 (2) A list of the types of vocational and technical education training  
7 classes or skills that are needed for employment in the economic sector.

8 C. Unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions shall apply to this  
9 Section:

10 (1) "Economic sector" means the economic development district or the  
11 parishes or geographic area surrounding a location where manufacturing,  
12 industrial, technology, energy, utility, and other sector facilities are, or will be,  
13 located that require vocational and technical education to support employment  
14 at the facilities. However an economic sector may not be established to provide  
15 training for a corporation identified in R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

16 (2) "Vocational and technical education charter schools" means those  
17 charter schools governed by R.S. 17:3991.2.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_