DIGEST

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Hoffmann HB No. 580

Abstract: Provides relative to textbooks and other instructional materials.

Proposed law makes changes to terminology throughout present law to refer to the governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school rather than a city, parish, or other local public school board.

R.S. 17:8:

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to prescribe and adopt and exercise control and supervision over the distribution and use of free school books and other materials of instruction for use in elementary and secondary schools and special schools. Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law requires BESE to adopt necessary rules and regulations governing use of free books and other instruction materials. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires BESE to make every effort to ensure that electronic versions are available for every title it approves for placement on the state list of recommended textbooks and instructional materials and to encourage the use of such electronic versions.

Present law requires BESE to adopt lists of basic textbooks and to adopt one or more lists thereof and provides that it may authorize and approve revised editions of any school book it adopts. Proposed law includes electronic versions.

Present law requires BESE to prescribe and adopt and exercise supervision and control over the distribution and use of school books and other learning materials, supplies, and equipment for post-secondary and vocational-technical schools and programs. Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law provides relative to BESE's supervision and control over textbooks and other learning materials, including provisions dealing with contracts with publishers, the state Dept. of Education's serving as the state's depository for school books, and the distribution of such books. Proposed law deletes present law.

R.S. 17:8.2:

Present law requires the state Dept. of Ed, when inviting publishers to participate in the textbook

adoption process, to communicate the state's desire to increase the availability and accessibility of electronic textbooks and to encourage publishers to provide electronic versions of the products they offer for state adoption. Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law provides that if a school board would like to purchase an electronic version of a textbook on the state approved list for which none is provided, it may make request to BESE. Proposed law instead authorizes a public school governing authority to purchase an electronic version of a textbook on the state recommended list.

Present law requires the purchase of printed textbooks and other instructional materials by a local public school board to made in accordance with BESE policy. Authorizes a school board to purchase electronic textbooks and other instructional materials as it deems are necessary and appropriate to fulfill their educational mission and to address state content standards and school and district accountability system requirements. Provides that electronic purchases are not subject to or limited by any textbook adoption cycle established by BESE and prohibits BESE from restricting the amount or percentage of state or local funds a board may expend for such purchases. Proposed law applies the same prohibition against restricting the amount or percentage of such funds to purchases of printed textbooks and instructional materials and otherwise retains present law.

R.S. 17:351:

Present law requires BESE to prescribe and adopt school books and instructional materials. Proposed law provides rather BESE shall recommend and adopt such books and materials.

R.S. 17:352:

Present law requires BESE or the state Dept. of Education to assure that any committee or group responsible for screening, reviewing, and evaluating instruction materials to contain a membership not less than one-third of which are teachers. Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law requires that textbooks and instructional materials be maintained in the state Dept. of Education's book depository while they are being approved. Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law requires textbooks and materials to be made available for public inspection during regular office hours. Proposed law adds as an alternative that they be made available for inspection online.

R.S. 17:415.1:

Present law provides for textbook adoption procedures, including citizen participation, the composition of textbook adoption committees, and the placement of proposed textbooks in various public library branches throughout the state. Proposed law deletes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:8(A) and (B), 8.2, 351, 352(A) and (B); 353; Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(13); Repeals R.S. 17:8(C) through (J) and 415.1)