DIGEST

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Carter HB No. 100

Abstract: Provides relative to measuring student readiness for kindergarten.

Present law requires each city and parish school system to require that every child entering kindergarten for the first time be given a nationally recognized readiness screening.

Proposed law changes the standard for the instrument used to measure student readiness from a "nationally recognized readiness screening" to a "valid and reliable readiness assessment".

Present law provides that screening results are used in placement and for planning instruction. Also requires that the pupil progression plan for each school system include criterion for placement. Proposed law deletes the provision relative to the pupil progression plan, provides that the "assessment" rather than "screening" results are used for measuring student readiness for kindergarten instead of in placement, and otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education to review the available tests and to recommend to BESE tests acceptable for use.

Present law requires that the tests recommended by the state Dept. of Education include the capacity to measure a student's proficiency in vision and hearing using the present vision and hearing screening programs; allows each school board to select one of the tests to be used in the system; and requires that the test selected and policies adopted for promotion to or enrollment in first grade be promulgated by each system in its pupil progression plan and curriculum guides. Proposed law deletes present law.

Proposed law provides for implementation of proposed law, subject to the availability of funds for such purpose, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

(Amends R.S. 17:391.11)