

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES. Exempts, under specified fiscal conditions, a local school board from complying with requirements that the board grant requests for certain kinds of leave.

 DIGEST

Present law provides, in part, that certain applicants for sabbatical leave shall have their applications granted by a local school board provided that all leaves requested could be taken without violating the prohibition that at no time during the school year shall the number of persons on sabbatical leave exceed 5% of the total number of teachers employed in a given parish.

Relative to teachers, school bus operators, and other employees who are not teachers or whose employment does not require the holding of a teacher's certificate or who are not employed as bus drivers.

Present law provides that every city and parish school board shall permit such employees to take up to 90 days of extended sick leave in each six-year period of employment, which may be used for personal illness or illness of an immediate family member in the manner provided by law at any time that the employee has no remaining regular sick leave balance.

Proposed law provides, for FY 2011-2012 and FY 2012-2013, that a local school board may but shall not be required to comply with present law relative to both sabbatical leave and extended sick leave during a fiscal year for which the amount of the state and local base per pupil cost determination, as established in the most recent legislatively approved minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, is not an increase of at least 2.75% over the amount established for the previous fiscal year and the school board has a fund balance deficit that exceeds 5% and an unrestricted fund balance of less than 7.5% at the beginning of such fiscal year. Proposed law requires the school board to honor any leave that it approved prior to the date the MFP formula is approved by the legislature and requires compliance with present law in the case of catastrophic illness or injury, defined as a life-threatening, chronic, or incapacitating condition affecting an employee or a member of an employee's immediate family, as verified by a licensed physician. Provides that proposed law shall be known as the "Education Reform Act".

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:500.2(A)(1), 1176, 1202(A)(1), and 1206.2(A)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Relative to both sabbatical leave and extended sick leave:
 - (a) Limits applicability of proposed law exception granted to certain school boards under certain fiscal conditions to FY 2011-2012 and FY 2012-2013.
 - (b) Requires a school board to honor leave approved prior to the date the MFP formula is approved by the legislature and to comply with present law in the case of catastrophic illness or injury.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the engrossed bill.

1. Provides that a school board must have a fund balance deficit greater than 5% and an unrestricted fund balance of less than 7.5% at the beginning of the fiscal year in which sabbatical leave and extended sick leave requests may not be granted.