

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
House Bill No. 454 By Representative Harrison

June 23, 2011

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 454 by Representative Harrison, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and adopted by the Senate on June 14, 2011, be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Austin Badon

Senator Eric LaFleur

Representative Joe Harrison

Senator Dan "Blade" Morrish

Representative Rickey L. Nowlin

Senator Ben Nevers

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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

House Bill No. 454 by Representative Harrison

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

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

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Add to proposed law exception granted to certain school boards that a school board also 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 before denying sabbatical leave and extended sick leave requests.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. None.

Report amends the bill to:

1. None.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

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 such 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 city and parish school boards 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 the 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))