Carter (HB 100) **Act No. 249**

Existing law requires public school governing authorities to require that every child entering kindergarten for the first time be evaluated with respect to school readiness. Prior law provided that the instrument used to measure readiness be a "nationally recognized readiness screening". New law provides that this instrument shall be a "valid and reliable readiness assessment".

Prior law provided that the screening results were used in placement. New law provides that results are used for measuring student readiness for kindergarten instead of in placement. Existing law provides that such results are used for planning instruction.

Existing law requires the state Dept. of Education to review the available tests and to recommend to BESE tests acceptable for use. New law requires that the Dept. conduct such review in consultation with the Child Care Assoc. of La., the La. Head Start Association, and BrightStart, the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council.

New law provides for implementation of new law as funds are available, to be fully implemented by the 2015-2016 school year.

Prior law required that the pupil progression plan for each school system include criterion for placement. Also required 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; allowed each school board to select one of the tests to be used in the system; and required 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. New law deletes prior law.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 17:391.11)