

Existing law provides, in part, that certain applicants for sabbatical leave shall have their applications granted by the local school board provided 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 parish.

Relative to teachers and other school board employees, existing law provides that the school board shall permit them 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.

New law provides, for FY 2011-2012 and FY 2012-2013, that a local school board may but shall not be required to comply with existing 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 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; however, new 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 existing 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.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 1, 2011).

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