
DIGEST

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Abramson

HB No. 411

Abstract: Provides the Orleans Parish School Board with a right of first refusal on a buy back of educational property it sold to a charter school group in Orleans Parish.

Present law provides generally for charter schools, which are public schools that operate somewhat independently of the local school board but pursuant to a charter agreement. A charter agreement is entered into by a nonprofit organization that operates the school and the school board or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). A charter school can be a new school or an existing public school that can be converted to a charter school.

Present law requires that local school boards make available to chartering groups any vacant school facilities or any facility slated to be vacant for lease or purchase up to fair market value. Relative to the conversion of certain existing schools, present law provides that the facility and all property within the existing school shall be made available to that chartering group and in exchange, the chartering group shall pay a proportionate share of the local school board's bonded indebtedness. If such facilities were constructed at no cost to the local school board, then such facilities including all equipment, books, instructional materials, and furniture within such facilities shall be provided to the charter school at no cost.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that if a chartering organization determines that a facility or property that was purchased from the Orleans Parish School Board is no longer needed for an educational purpose, the organization shall first offer to sell the facility or property back to the Orleans Parish School Board prior to seeking to dispose of it to any other person or entity.

(Amends R.S. 17:3982(B))