

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

STATE GRANTS. Authorizes a rebate for donations to certain public schools

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DIGEST

Proposed law authorizes a rebate of 75% of donations a taxpayer makes during a taxable year to public schools which received a letter grade of "B", "C", "D", or "F" and which have improved student academic achievement as demonstrated by the successful meeting of their identified growth targets for the most recent year pursuant to the La. School and District Accountability System. In order to qualify for the rebate, the donation must be made by a taxpayer who files a state income tax return.

Proposed law requires that donations be used by the public school for purchasing instructional materials and supplies, for costs and expenses in establishing and maintaining tutorial programs, for costs and expenses in establishing and maintaining in-school child care programs for student parents, school based health clinics, or for meeting any of the requirements prescribed in current rules and regulations for academically unacceptable schools.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Revenue (DOR) to provide the format for a receipt that shall indicate the amount of the donation and the letter grade of the public school that received the donation. Further requires the receipt to include certification from the public school that the donation will be used for one of the authorized purposes provided for in proposed law. The taxpayer shall provide a copy of the receipt when claiming the rebate.

Proposed law limits the total amount of rebates issued pursuant to proposed law to \$10 million per calendar year; however, in any year that the amount of rebates awarded reaches 90% of the annual cap, the annual cap for the next year shall be increased by 20%. Requires DOR to approve rebates on a first-come, first-served basis until the maximum amount of rebates has been issued.

Proposed law requires rebates to be paid from the current collections of the taxes imposed by present law.

Effective Jan. 1, 2013, and shall be applicable to donations made to a public school for the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter.

(Adds R.S. 47:6301)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Ways and Means to the original bill.

1. Added eligibility of donations to public schools which received a letter grade of "B" for rebate and authorizes the amount of the rebate for such donations to be equal to 25% of the donation.
2. Added purposes for which donations shall be used by the public school.
3. Added a requirement for the receipt issued by the public school to include certification by the school that donations will be used for one of the authorized purposes set forth in proposed law.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to the engrossed bill

1. Authorizes a rebate of 75% of donations for "B", "C", "D", or "F" public schools.
2. Requires the public school to have improved student academic achievement as demonstrated by the successful meeting of its identified growth target for the most recent year.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Provides that donations shall also be used for school based health clinics.