

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 911

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL AND SENATOR WALSWORTH

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the heading of Part II of Chapter 43 of Title 17 of the Louisiana  
3 Revised Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 17:4031(A), (B), and (E), relative to the School  
4 Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities; to remove the  
5 limitation that the program be a two-year pilot program; to provide relative to student  
6 eligibility; to remove certain reporting requirements; and to provide for related  
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. The heading of Part II of Chapter 43 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised  
10 Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 17:4031(A), (B), and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted to  
11 read as follows:

12 PART II. SCHOOL CHOICE ~~PILOT~~ PROGRAM

13 §4031. School choice program; students with exceptionalities; ~~pilot program~~;  
14 establishment; purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility;  
15 educational certificates; administration; implementation; reporting

16 A. The purpose of the ~~pilot~~ program established in this Section is to provide  
17 certain students with exceptionalities the opportunity to attend schools of their  
18 parents' choosing that provide educational services that specifically address the needs  
19 of such students.

20 B.(1) The School Choice ~~Pilot~~ Program for Certain Students with  
21 Exceptionalities, hereinafter referred to as the "program", is hereby established ~~as a~~  
22 ~~two-year pilot program~~ in each parish having a population in excess of one hundred  
23 ninety thousand persons according to the most recent federal decennial census. ~~The~~  
24 ~~program shall be implemented beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.~~

1 (2) Any student who meets all of the following criteria is an eligible student:

2 (a) The student has been evaluated by a local education agency as defined  
3 in R.S. 17:1942, is determined to be in need of services for autism, a mental  
4 disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health impairment,  
5 specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury, and has an Individual  
6 Education Plan or a services plan in accordance with Title 34 of the Code of Federal  
7 Regulations Part 300.37.

8 (b) ~~The student is residing within a pilot program parish.~~

9 (c) ~~The student is eligible to attend public school and is entering~~  
10 ~~kindergarten or grades one through eight.~~

11 (d) ~~(c)~~ The student is not deemed to be gifted or talented.

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13 E.(1) The department shall submit a report to the House Committee on  
14 Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than August 1, 2012, on  
15 the implementation of the program. The report shall include but shall not be limited  
16 to the number of eligible students participating in the program, the name of each  
17 participating nonpublic school, and the number of eligible students each ~~such~~ school  
18 enrolled for participation in the program, ~~and the department's recommendations as~~  
19 ~~to whether the pilot program should continue on a pilot basis or be implemented~~  
20 ~~statewide after the initial two-year pilot has ended.~~

21 (2) The department shall submit a report to the House Committee on  
22 Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than December 1, 2014,  
23 on the implementation of the program. The report shall include but shall not be  
24 limited to the same information required in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and also  
25 shall include the department's recommendations as to whether the program should  
26 continue in the program eligible parishes or be implemented statewide.

1           Section 2. This Act shall be implemented beginning with the 2013-2014 school year  
2           and shall terminate at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_