
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

Proposed law creates the La. Statewide Education Facilities Authority (the authority) in the Dept. of Education to provide funding, coordination, assistance, and oversight for the repair, renovation, and construction of public school facilities. Provides for an uncompensated board of commissioners, for an executive director, and for an advisory council to provide advice and input to the authority.

Provides that the board shall be comprised of seven members as follows:

- (1) Five members - three appointed by the governor, two appointed by BESE - with a background in construction, architecture, or finance subject to Senate confirmation.
- (2) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- (3) One member appointed by the La. School Boards Association, subject to Senate confirmation.

Requires the authority to do the following:

- (1) Collaborate with school boards to determine how best to meet needs.
- (2) Consult with the advisory council to develop a formula and mechanism to assess and prioritize applications for funding local projects.
- (3) Establish design specifications for school construction projects approved for funding by the board.
- (4) Review and evaluate existing funding mechanisms for school construction or rehabilitation projects.
- (5) Establish and administer a revolving loan fund, monies from which may be used for school construction projects.
- (6) Issue a report to the legislature by Dec. 31, 2014.

Authorizes the authority to do the following if appropriate funds are available:

- (1) Conduct a statewide assessment of public school facilities and compile school-by-school inventory of deficiencies and needs.

- (2) Review applications from school boards for facility funding.
- (3) Employ an executive director who shall administer the functions of the authority and employ staff.
- (4) Submit the formula and mechanism that the authority is required to develop to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for approval.
- (5) Issue an annual report to the legislature of its activity in the previous budget year.

Proposed law creates the Education Facilities Advisory Council to provide advise and input to the authority. The council shall be comprised of the following thirteen members:

- (1) The governor or his designee.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance or his designee.
- (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations or his designee.
- (6) The executive director of the State Bond Commission or his designee.
- (7) The legislative auditor or his designee.
- (8) A representative from the Louisiana School Facility Manager's Association appointed by the association.
- (9) A representative from the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials appointed by the association.
- (10) A representative of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents appointed by the association.
- (11) A representative of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers appointed by the federation.
- (12) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Educators appointed by the association.
- (13) A representative of the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana appointed by the association.

Proposed law provides that participation by a school board in an authority program is voluntary. Provides that a school board retains ownership of and control over any school facility for which

funding is obtained through the authority and that the authority may exercise oversight over a project only to the extent that the project is funded through the authority.

Proposed law authorizes the authority to seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations, including federal funds, from any available source. Provides that implementation of proposed law provisions that require the expenditure of funds shall be subject to the availability of public or private funds, or both, for such purpose. Specifies, however, that no state general fund dollars shall be used for this purpose.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 17:409.1-409.7 and R.S. 36:651(CC))