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## DIGEST

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Greene

HB No. 491

**Abstract:** Replaces requirement that the legislature create parish school boards with a requirement that the legislature create local public school boards and specify their geographic jurisdiction; requires voter approval of new school boards; provides that any local public school district is to be included in the MFP and has constitutionally granted authority to levy ad valorem taxes.

Present constitution requires the legislature to create parish school boards. Proposed constitutional amendment removes "parish" as a restriction on the type of school boards the legislature is to create and requires that the legislature specify the geographic jurisdiction of school boards. Proposed constitutional amendment changes references to parish schools and city or municipal schools to local public schools in the following constitutional provisions thereby providing that all school systems are covered by these provisions:

- (1) Provisions for the selection of local school superintendents.
- (2) Provisions for inclusion of school systems in the MFP formula and for the allocation of MFP funds to such systems.
- (3) Provisions requiring school systems to levy ad valorem taxes and establishing the maximum millage rate for such taxes.

Present constitution specifically provides that the following school systems are treated like other school systems for purposes of the MFP and local taxing authority: the Central community school system, the Zachary community school system, and school systems in Baker, Monroe, and Bogalusa. Proposed constitutional amendment repeals present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment prohibits creation of a school district that is not wholly contained in a single parish.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires voter approval of an act of the legislature creating a new school board and a school district from territory in an existing district or districts. Requires approval of a majority of the electors voting in both the proposed school district and in each existing school district from which the proposed district is to be created.

Present constitution (Art. III, §12) prohibits a local law regarding management of parish or city public schools. Proposed constitutional amendment provides that a legislative act creating a school board or changing a school district shall not violate this provision, but requires

publication of local notice of any such legislation.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 4, 2014.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, §§9 and 13(B), (C), and (D))