

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 557

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY AND RICHARD

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Prohibits implementation of the Common Core State Standards and creates the Student Standards Task Force to study implementation of the standards

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii),
3 to enact R.S. 36:651(G)(4), and to repeal R.S. 17:24.4(E)(2) and (F)(1)(d) and Part
4 VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of
5 R.S. 17:391.2 through 391.13, relative to education standards and related
6 assessments; to prohibit the implementation of the Common Core State Standards;
7 to create the Students Standards Task Force; to provide for task force purpose,
8 membership, vacancies, meetings, compensation, reporting, and termination; to
9 repeal obsolete provisions relative to public school accountability and assessment;
10 and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) are
13 hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

14 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
15 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
16 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

17 A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
18 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
19 clearly indicates a different meaning:

20 * * *

1 (4) The "statewide content standards for required subjects" are statements
 2 that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a
 3 specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. ~~Content~~
 4 standards shall represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully
 5 transition to postsecondary education and the workplace, as determined by content
 6 experts, elementary and secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary
 7 education leaders, and business and industry leaders.

* * *

9 E.(1) The state Department of Education shall, with the approval of the State
 10 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, ~~as part of the Louisiana~~
 11 Competency-Based Education Program, shall develop and establish statewide
 12 content standards for required subjects to be taught in the public elementary and
 13 secondary schools of this state. The statewide content standards for required subjects
 14 shall be implemented by the state Department of Education as approved by the State
 15 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, with recommendations prior to
 16 approval and advice from the educational personnel in the public schools and
 17 colleges and universities of this state. The state Department of Education or the
 18 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not implement the
 19 Common Core State Standards for any subject.

20 (2) There is hereby created the Student Standards Task Force, referred to in
 21 this Section as the "task force", for the purpose of studying all aspects of the
 22 Common Core State Standards. The membership of the task force shall be as
 23 follows:

24 (a) One member representing each of the following groups, organizations,
 25 or entities selected by the respective group, organization, or entity:

26 (i) The Louisiana Association of Educators.

27 (ii) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

28 (iii) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.

29 (iv) The Louisiana School Boards Association.

- 1 (v) The Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 2 (vi) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- 3 (vii) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- 4 (viii) The Council for a Better Louisiana.
- 5 (b) Three public school principals selected by the presiding officer of the
6 Louisiana Association of Principals including one elementary school principal, one
7 middle school principal, and one high school principal.
- 8 (c) The 2011 Louisiana Teacher of the Year or his designee.
- 9 (d) The 2012 Louisiana Teacher of the Year or his designee.
- 10 (e) The 2013 Louisiana Teacher of the Year of his designee.
- 11 (f) Three parents of public school students selected by the Louisiana Parent-
12 Teacher Association.
- 13 (g) Two parents of public school students selected by the presiding officer
14 of the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 15 (h) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
16 or his designee.
- 17 (i) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- 18 (j) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- 19 (k) Three deans of colleges of education of Louisiana public colleges or
20 universities, to be appointed by the commissioner of higher education.
- 21 (l) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.
- 22 (m) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.
- 23 (3) Members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing
24 authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.
- 25 (4) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
26 shall convene the task force for its first meeting not later than August 30, 2014.
- 27 (5) The task force shall elect from among its members a chairman and such
28 other officers as it may deem appropriate.

1 (6) A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for
2 the transaction of business.

3 (7) All legislative members of the task force shall receive the same per diem
4 and travel allowance for attending meetings of the task force as is normally provided
5 for meetings of legislative committees. Other members of the task force shall serve
6 without compensation.

7 (8) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide
8 primary administrative and staff support to the task force.

9 (9) The task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law and the Open
10 Meetings Law.

11 (10) In conducting the study as required in this Subsection, the task force
12 shall review and consider the following:

13 (a) All costs associated with the implementation of Common Core State
14 Standards in Louisiana at both the state and local levels. The task force shall request
15 each city, parish, and other local public school board to submit a report of all costs
16 incurred by each board for such implementation. The report shall include but not be
17 limited to all one-time costs and continuing costs of implementation and costs for:

18 (i) Textbooks and instructional materials.

19 (ii) Technical infrastructure and support.

20 (iii) Professional development and other necessary training.

21 (iv) Assessments.

22 (v) Remediation and summer school programs.

23 (vi) Any additional costs related to implementation such as changes in class
24 size and instructional time and the addition of any supplemental programs.

25 (b) The advantages and disadvantages of implementing the standards in
26 Louisiana which shall include the consideration of research and studies specifically
27 addressing the effects of losses in instructional time and added time spent on taking
28 the assessments.

1 (c) All professional development and training necessary for the
2 implementation.

3 (d) A determination as to the effectiveness and appropriateness of
4 implementing the standards as compared to the state standards used prior to the
5 adoption of the Common Core State Standards by the State Board of Elementary and
6 Secondary Education.

7 (e) The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers
8 assessments administered to students to measure whether the students have met the
9 standards.

10 (f) Any other matters related to implementation of the standards that the task
11 force deems appropriate.

12 (11) The task force shall submit a written report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any recommendations for legislation related to the
14 implementation of standards that the task force may deem necessary, to the House
15 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by not later than
16 sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of
17 Louisiana.

18 (12) The task force shall terminate on June 30, 2015.

19 F.(1)(a) The state Department of Education shall ~~begin implementation of~~
20 ~~a~~ implement the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the
21 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

22 * * *

23 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
24 science, and social studies shall be based on state content standards that represent the
25 knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary
26 education and the workplace and rigorous student achievement standards set with
27 reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The
28 assessments shall be implemented by the ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~

1 ~~Education. Such tests~~ state Department of Education and shall be administered, ~~at a~~
2 ~~minimum~~, in grades three through eleven.

3 * * *

4 (3)(a) In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in
5 ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this Subsection, an alternate
6 assessment shall be provided for and administered only to those students with
7 disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria developed by the state Department
8 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
9 Education. A determination of whether any student meets the eligibility criteria
10 established by the state Department of Education shall be made by the student's
11 Individual Education Plan committee and shall be so noted on that student's
12 Individual Education Plan. The alternate assessment developed pursuant to this
13 Paragraph shall be administered on a schedule determined by the state Department
14 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
15 Education. The alternate assessment shall be part of the Louisiana Education
16 Assessment Program otherwise provided for in this Subsection and the alternate
17 assessment shall be used for information, accountability, compliance, and planning
18 purposes as provided by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

19 (b)

20 * * *

21 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take
22 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and
23 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared
24 specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-
25 based assessments prescribed in ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this
26 Subsection. Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test
27 questions and shall provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other
28 accommodations deemed appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan

1 committee. However, any such accommodations shall not breach test security or
2 invalidate the meaning of the test score or the purpose of the test.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(G)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
6 of Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of
7 Education

8 * * *

9 G. The following agencies, as defined by R.S. 36:3, are transferred to and
10 hereafter shall be within the Department of Education as provided in Part III of
11 Chapter 22 of this Title:

12 * * *

13 (4) The Student Standards Task Force (R.S. 17:24.4(E)(2)).

14 * * *

15 Section 3. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d) and Part VI of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the
16 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:391.2 through 391.13 are hereby
17 repealed in their entirety.

18 Section 4. R.S. 17:24.4(E)(2) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

19 Section 5.(A) This Section and Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this Act shall become
20 effective on August 1, 2014.

21 (B) Section 4 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2015.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Henry HB No. 557

Abstract: Prohibits implementation of the Common Core State Standards and creates the Student Standards Task Force to study implementation of the standards.

Present law provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the implementation of statewide standards for required subjects and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). Requires standards-based assessments for required subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be implemented by the State

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and administered in at least grades 3 through 11. Provides that such assessments be based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards comparable to national student achievement levels. Further requires that the rigor of such assessments shall at least compare to that of national achievement tests. Specifies that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math shall be based on nationally recognized content standards. Requires BESE to establish the adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on the tests. Proposed law retains present law provisions with regard to implementation of LEAP tests except requires the tests to be administered in grades 3 through 11.

Proposed law deletes present law requirement that the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math be based on nationally recognized content standards. Provides for implementation of the standards-based assessments by the department instead of BESE.

Proposed law prohibits implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Creates the Student Standards Task Force to study all aspects of the CCSS. Provides for task force membership, vacancies, meetings, voting, and compensation. Provides that the commission shall be subject to the Public Records Law and the Open Meetings Law. Provides that the task force study all costs associated with the implementation of CCSS at both the state and local levels. Provides that the task force determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of implementing the CCSS as compared to the state standards in place prior to implementation of CCSS. Requires the task force to report to the House and Senate education committees prior to the 2015 Regular Session. Provides that the task force will terminate on June 30, 2015.

Present law (R.S. 17:391.2-391.13), relative to public school accountability and assessment, includes requirements for an educational accountability program, pupil proficiency levels, course content evaluations, standardized test administration, and public school accreditation. Further provides for school readiness assessments for students entering kindergarten and a talent search program for junior high students. Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4), (E), and (F)(1)(a) and (c) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii); Adds R.S. 36:651(G)(4); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(E)(2) and (F)(1)(d) and 391.2-391.13)