SLS 14RS-611 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 354

BY SENATOR WHITE

SCHOOLS. Constitutional Amendment to provide that any public school system created by the legislature shall have the authority granted parish school boards. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VIII of Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to public education; to provide that, for certain effects and purposes, any public school system created by the legislature shall be regarded and treated as a parish and shall have the authority granted parishes, including minimum foundation program funding formula and the raising of certain local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VIII of Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§13. Funding; Apportionment

* * * *

(D)(1) Municipal and Other School Systems. For the effects and purposes of this

(D)(1) Municipal and Other School Systems. For the effects and purposes of this Section, the Central community school system and the Zachary community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish, and the municipalities of Baker in East Baton Rouge Parish,

Monroe in Ouachita Parish, and Bogalusa in Washington Parish, and no others <u>any other</u> <u>public school system created by the legislature</u>, shall be regarded and treated as parishes and shall have the authority granted parishes. Consistent with Article VIII of this constitution, relevant to equal educational opportunities, no state dollars shall be used to discriminate or to have the effect of discriminating in providing equal educational opportunity for all students.

* * *

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 4, 2014.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment to grant any other public school system created by the legislature the same authority granted parishes for purposes of Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana, including purposes related to the minimum foundation program, funding for certain school books and instructional materials, and the raising of certain local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools? (Amends Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1))

The original instrument was prepared by Linda Nugent. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

White (SB 354)

<u>Present constitution</u> (Art. VIII, Sec. 13(D)(1)) states that for the effects and purposes of Art. VIII, Sec. 13, the Central community school system and the Zachary community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish, and the municipalities of Baker in East Baton Rouge Parish, Monroe in Ouachita Parish, and Bogalusa in Washington Parish, and no others, shall be regarded and treated as parishes and shall have the authority granted parishes. Such authority includes eligibility for funding through the minimum foundation program formula and the authority to levy certain local taxes to support public elementary and secondary schools. Further provides that no state dollars shall be used to discriminate or to have the

effect of discriminating in providing educational opportunity for all students.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> retains <u>present constitution</u> except provides that for the effects and purposes of Art. VIII, Sec. 13, any other public school system created by the legislature shall be regarded and treated as parishes and shall have the authority granted parishes.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 4, 2014.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 13(D)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

<u>Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill</u>

1. Makes technical corrections.