2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 320

BY REPRESENTATIVE WOODRUFF

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana. STUDENTS: Provides relative to dropout prevention and recovery

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221.4(A) and (C)(introductory paragraph) and 221.6(A),
3	(E)(introductory paragraph), and (I)(introductory paragraph) and to enact R.S.
4	17:221.6(I)(4), relative to high school dropout recovery programs; to provide with
5	respect to funding; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 17:221.4(A) and (C)(introductory paragraph) and 221.6(A),
8	(E)(introductory paragraph), and (I)(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and
9	reenacted and R.S. 17:221.6(I)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
10	§221.4. Louisiana School Dropout prevention and recovery program Prevention Act
11	A. This Section shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana School
12	Dropout Prevention and Recovery Act of 2014".
13	* * *
14	C. A student, who is under eighteen years of age, who withdraws from
15	school prior to graduating from high school, and who has not enrolled in a dropout
16	recovery program as provided in R.S. 17:221.6 shall exercise one of the following
17	options within one hundred twenty days of leaving school:
18	* * *

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	§221.6. Louisiana School Dropout recovery programs; individual graduation plan;		
2	requirements; definitions Recovery Program		
3	A. Each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high		
4	school students may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students. School		
5	districts and charter schools should maximize the use of Title 1 and at-risk funds		
6	through the minimum foundation program to establish such programs.		
7	* * *		
8	E. A Each student enrolled in a dropout recovery program pursuant to this		
9	Section shall be recorded on a monthly basis as participating in the program and shall		
10	be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school system offering		
11	the program. Each participating school and school system shall report the following		
12	information to the state Department of Education on a monthly basis record, each		
13	month, all of the students who meet the following criteria for actively participating		
14	in the dropout recovery program:		
15	* * *		
16	I. For the purposes of this Section:		
17	* * *		
18	(4) "School district" or "district" means a city, parish, or other local public		
19	school system.		

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)]

HB 320 Engrossed	2015 Regular Session	Woodruff
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Abstract: Exempts students in dropout recovery programs from certain requirements applicable to minors who withdraw from school before high school graduation and removes certain reporting requirements pertaining to dropout recovery programs.

Present law requires minors who withdraw from school prior to high school graduation, within 120 days of leaving, to either reenroll in school and make progress toward completing graduation requirements, enroll in a high school equivalency diploma program and make progress toward completing program requirements, or enlist in the La. National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces, with a commitment for at least two years of service, and earn a high school equivalency diploma during the service period. Proposed law exempts minors participating in a dropout recovery program from this requirement.

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<u>Present law</u> allows each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school students to offer a dropout recovery program. <u>Proposed law</u> adds that such districts and schools should maximize the use of Title 1 and at-risk funds through the minimum foundation program (MFP) to establish such programs.

<u>Present law</u> requires that a student enrolled in such a program be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school district offering the program. <u>Proposed law</u> adds that such students shall be recorded on a monthly basis as program participants.

<u>Present law</u> requires monthly reporting by schools and school systems to the state Dept. of Education and specifies information to be included in the reports. <u>Proposed law</u> requires that such information be recorded monthly rather than reported to DOE monthly.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> with respect to other provisions of the dropout recovery program and clarifies certain terms.

(Amends R.S. 17:221.4(A) and (C)(intro. para.) and 221.6(A), (E)(intro. para.), and (I)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 17:221.6(I)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Education</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:
- 1. Retain <u>present law</u> provision authorizing all schools and school districts providing instruction to high school students to offer dropout recovery programs and remove <u>proposed law</u> provision that would have required the offering of such programs in schools with low graduation rates.
- 2. Instead of requiring the funding of students in such programs as provided in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, provide that school districts and charter schools should maximize the use of Title 1 and at-risk funds through the MFP to establish such programs.