

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE BILL NO. 56

BY SENATOR CAIN

PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS. Provides for recognition of educational programs established through nonpublic schools.

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:236.3, relative to recognition of a certificate or diploma awarded by certain
3 nonpublic schools; to provide that such certificate or diploma issued by such
4 nonpublic school shall be recognized to the same extent as a General Educational
5 Diploma; to require state and local governmental entities to consider persons for
6 employment who earns such a certificate or diploma; to require public post-
7 secondary institutions and proprietary schools licensed by the state to accept students
8 for consideration who are awarded such a certificate or diploma; and to provide for
9 related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 17:236.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 **§236.3. Nonpublic school recognition**

13 **A. A certificate or diploma awarded at graduation by a nonpublic school**
14 **which is not approved as provided in R.S. 17:11 but which meets the definition**
15 **of a school as provided in R.S. 17:236 shall be considered the equivalent of a**
16 **General Educational Diploma for employment and educational purposes as**
17 **provided in this Section.**

1 **B. No state or local governmental entity which requires a high school**
2 **diploma or a General Educational Diploma as a condition of employment shall**
3 **deny employment to any person based solely on the criteria that the applicant**
4 **has earned a certificate or diploma from a nonpublic school which is not**
5 **approved as provided in R.S. 17:11 but which meets the definition of a school.**

6 **C. Every public postsecondary institution and every proprietary school**
7 **licensed by the state shall, in addition to any other requirements for admission,**
8 **accept students for consideration for enrollment who have earned a certificate**
9 **or diploma from a nonpublic school which is not approved as provided in R.S.**
10 **17:11 but meets the definition of a school.**

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

DIGEST

Proposed law provides that a certificate or diploma from a nonpublic school which meets the definition of a school shall be considered the equivalent of a general education development certificate for certain employment and educational purposes.

Proposed law provides that no state or local governmental entity which requires a high school diploma or a GED as a condition of employment shall deny employment opportunities to any person based solely on the criteria that the applicant has been awarded a certificate or diploma from such a nonpublic school.

Proposed law requires that all public postsecondary institutions and every proprietary school licensed by the state which require a high school diploma or a GED for admission shall also accept students for consideration for enrollment who have successfully completed an educational program established through a nonpublic school which meets the definition of a school.

(Adds R.S. 17:236.3)