

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 686

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARMODY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Provides relative to the application review process and requires an independent evaluation of a proposed charter by a qualified third party

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a), relative to the review of proposed
3 school charters by authorizing entities; to provide for an application review process
4 that complies with specified principles and standards; to provide for an independent
5 evaluation of a charter proposal by a qualified third party; to provide an effective
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted to
9 read as follows:

10 §3981. State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; powers and duties
11 relative to charter schools

12 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall:

13 * * *

14 (4) Review each proposed charter in a timely manner and in the order in
15 which submitted and determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law
16 and rules and whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured,
17 educationally sound, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this
18 Chapter. The board shall engage in an application review process that complies with
19 the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as
20 promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a qualified third
2 party.

3 * * *

4 §3982. Local school boards; duties

5 A.(1)(a) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall
6 review and formally act upon each proposed charter within thirty days of its
7 submission and in the order in which submitted. In doing such review, the local
8 school board shall determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law
9 and rules, whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured, and
10 educationally sound, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this
11 Chapter. The local board shall engage in an application review process that complies
12 with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as
13 promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall
14 provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a qualified third
15 party.

16 * * *

17 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2009; if vetoed by the governor
18 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
19 2009, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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)]

Carmody

HB No. 686

Abstract: Relative to proposals to create charter schools, requires authorizing entities to engage in an application review process that complies with specified principles and standards. Also provides for an independent evaluation of a proposal by a qualified third party.

Relative to proposals to create charter schools submitted to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE):

Present law (R.S. 17:3981(4)) requires BESE to review each proposed charter submitted to it in a timely manner and in the order in which submitted and determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law and rules and whether the proposal is valid,

complete, financially well-structured, educationally sound, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law.

Proposed law retains present law. Provides additionally that BESE shall engage in an application review process that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. Also requires the board to provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a qualified third party.

Relative to proposals to create charter schools submitted to a local school board:

Present law (R.S. 17:3982(A)(1)(a)) requires a local school board to review and formally act upon each proposed charter within 30 days of its submission and in the order in which submitted. Provides that in doing such review, the local school board shall determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law.

Proposed law retains present law. Provides additionally that the local board shall engage in an application review process that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. Also requires the board to provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a qualified third party.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Amends R.S. 17:3981(4) and 3982(A)(1)(a))