

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 259

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides relative to career diploma requirements.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.3(B)(3), relative to career diploma requirements; to
3 provide for an exception of certain students; to provide for parental or legal guardian
4 approval; to provide for an exception of a student's test scores for purposes of the
5 school and district accountability system; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.3(B)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

9 * * *

10 B.(1) * * *

11 **(3)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, a** ~~A~~

12 student pursuing a career diploma shall take the American College Test and may
13 choose to take the WorkKeys test. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary
14 Education shall develop a system of equivalent scores for the American College Test
15 and the WorkKeys test and shall use a student's highest score achieved on such test
16 or tests for purposes of the school and district accountability system required by R.S.
17 17:10.1.

1 **(b) The parent or legal guardian of a student pursuing a career diploma**
 2 **shall have the option of refusing to have the American College Test**
 3 **administered to the student. When the parent or legal guardian notifies the**
 4 **school's administration of the refusal option, in writing, the nonparticipation of**
 5 **a student, as provided for in this Subparagraph, shall not, in any manner, be**
 6 **factored into the calculation of any performance score or performance letter**
 7 **grade assigned to any school or school system in which the student is enrolled.**

8 **(i) A student who is not administered the American College Test,**
 9 **pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, shall not be penalized for**
 10 **failure to take the test. For purposes of this Item, prohibited penalties include**
 11 **but are not limited to:**

12 **(aa) Withholding of credits toward graduation or denying a student the**
 13 **ability to graduate.**

14 **(bb) Denying a student the opportunity to participate in an**
 15 **extracurricular activity.**

16 **(cc) Denying a student the ability to advance to the subsequent grade**
 17 **level.**

* * *

19 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 20 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 21 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 22 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 23 effective on the day following such approval.

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

DIGEST

SB 259 Original 2024 Regular Session Jackson-Andrews

Present law requires a student pursuing a career diploma to take the American College Test and allows a student to choose to take the WorkKeys test.

Present law requires BESE to develop a system of equivalent scores for the American College Test and the WorkKeys test and to use a student's highest score achieved on such

test or tests for purposes of the school and district accountability system.

Proposed law retains present law but allows an option for a parent or legal guardian to refuse to have the ACT administered to the student.

Proposed law prohibits BESE from applying a score, for purposes of the school and district accountability system, to a student who was not administered the ACT.

Proposed law prohibits penalizing a student who was not administered the ACT.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(3))