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## DIGEST

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HB 546 Original

2024 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Requires three years of French language instruction in elementary school, in middle school, and in high school.

Present law requires French language instruction in public schools, allows school boards to request exemption from this requirement from BESE, and provides that the exemption shall not be denied.

Proposed law specifically requires that three years of French language instruction be offered in elementary school, three years be offered in middle school, and three years be offered in high school. Exempts school boards on the basis of financial infeasibility as determined by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); prohibits the determination that a school board is financially unable to offer the instruction if it offers any other foreign languages; and provides that proposed law applies regardless of financial determinations if the instruction is requested by at least 25 parents.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to shall establish and maintain a list of recommended materials for use in proposed law instruction and in French immersion programs throughout the state.

Proposed law requires the sequences of instruction required by proposed law to begin by the 2028-2029 school year.

(Amends R.S. 17:272)