

Regular Session, 2013
HOUSE BILL NO. 116
BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

ACT No. 378

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:8.3 and R.S. 36:651(G)(1), relative to textbooks and other instructional
3 materials; to create the Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional Materials and
4 provide for its purpose, membership, duties, compensation, and staffing; to provide
5 for reporting requirements; to provide for a termination date for the task force; and
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:8.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §8.3. Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional Materials

10 A. There is hereby created the Task Force on Textbooks and Instructional
11 Materials, hereafter referred to as the "task force", for the purpose of undertaking a
12 thorough review and analysis of the processes utilized in the selection and approval
13 of textbooks and other instructional materials for use in the state's elementary and
14 secondary schools and to make recommendations for any revisions necessary to the
15 laws and policies which govern these processes to ensure that the students enrolled
16 in Louisiana's elementary and secondary schools have texts and instructional
17 materials that are both grade appropriate and aligned with state content standards.

18 B. The task force shall be composed of eighteen members as follows:

19 (1) The state superintendent of education, or his designee, who shall serve
20 as chairman.

21 (2) A member of the staff of the state Department of Education with a
22 working knowledge of the processes utilized in the review, selection, and approval
23 of textbooks and other instructional materials.

1 (3) One member appointed by the Louisiana School Boards Association.

2 (4) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of School
3 Superintendents.

4 (5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of School
5 Executives.

6 (6) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Principals.

7 (7) One member appointed by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

8 (8) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Educators.

9 (9) One member appointed by the Associated Professional Educators of
10 Louisiana.

11 (10) Three classroom teachers, appointed by the state superintendent of
12 education.

13 (11) Three parents of students enrolled in an elementary or secondary school,
14 appointed by the state superintendent of education.

15 (12) A member of the Louisiana Senate, appointed by the president of the
16 Senate.

17 (13) A member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, appointed by the
18 speaker of the House of Representatives.

19 (14) A representative of the Association of American Publishers.

20 C. Members shall serve without compensation, but may receive any per diem
21 or reimbursement for travel and expenses as allowed and provided by the appointing
22 authority.

23 D. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original appointment.

24 E. The state superintendent shall convene the first meeting of the task force
25 not later than September 1, 2013, and shall designate staff to assist the task force in
26 performing its duties and responsibilities.

27 F. In making its recommendations pursuant to Subsection A of this Section,
28 the task force shall, at a minimum, consider the following:

29 (1) The optimal balance of authority and responsibility between the Board
30 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Education, and local

1 schools and school systems for the review, selection, and purchase of texts and
2 instructional materials, including internet content, for use in elementary and
3 secondary schools.

4 (2) Strategies to increase the use of electronic texts and other instructional
5 materials and address the costs of providing necessary related hardware and internet
6 access to students and schools.

7 (3) Strategies to revise the processes utilized in the review, selection, and
8 purchase of texts and other instructional materials to provide maximum flexibility
9 for schools to take advantage of the best available educational instructional
10 materials, while ensuring that every student is provided with texts and instructional
11 materials that are as current as practicable and that are aligned with the state content
12 standards prescribed for the appropriate grade level.

13 (4) A process to facilitate the purchase and delivery of texts and instructional
14 materials at the lowest possible cost and in a timely manner, either through state
15 contracts with publishers and other educational content providers or another
16 mechanism that allows schools and school systems to conveniently and efficiently
17 combine their purchases.

18 G. The task force shall submit a written report of its findings and
19 recommendations for related policy and statutory changes to the Senate Committee
20 on Education and the House Committee on Education not later than February 1,
21 2014.

22 H. The task force shall terminate and all authority for its existence shall end
23 June 30, 2014.

24 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(G)(1) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

25 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of
26 Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of
27 Education

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