Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 1376

### BY REPRESENTATIVE HINES

# SCHOOLS/TRANSPORTATION: Requires local school boards to provide free transportation for students attending BESE-approved schools within the local board's jurisdictional boundaries if the student resides more than 1,000 feet from school

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:158(A)(1), (2), and (3) and (C); to provide relative to the
3	transportation of students by local school boards to certain elementary and secondary
4	schools; to require transportation if the student resides more than one thousand feet
5	from such school; to provide relative to transportation for a student who resides one
6	thousand feet or less from the school; to provide conditions for and limitations on
7	such transportation; to provide relative to reimbursement by the state Department of
8	Education to certain persons when transportation is not provided by a local school
9	board for economically justifiable reasons; to provide conditions for and limitations
10	on such reimbursement; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related
11	matters.
12	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
13	Section 1. R.S. 17:158(A)(1), (2), and (3) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted
14	to read as follows:
15	\$158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;
16	alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds
17	A.(1) Except as provided by Subsection H of this Section and in accordance
18	with the requirements of Subsection F of this Section, each city, parish, and city
19	other local public school board shall provide free transportation for any student

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1attending a school of suitable grade approved by the State Board of Elementary and2Secondary Education within the jurisdictional boundaries of the parish or school3local board if the student resides more than one mile thousand feet from such school.

4 (2) The Terrebonne Parish School Board may provide transportation for any 5 student attending a school of suitable grade approved by the State Board of 6 Elementary and Secondary Education within the jurisdictional boundaries of the 7 parish or school board who resides one <del>mile</del> thousand feet or less from the school 8 when the school board determines that conditions exist to warrant such 9 transportation. Transportation of students residing one <del>mile</del> thousand feet or less 10 from their school shall be at no cost to the state.

11 (3) The Beauregard Parish School Board, the Cameron Parish School Board, 12 the East Feliciana Parish School Board, the Grant Parish School Board, the Iberville Parish School Board, the Morehouse Parish School Board, the Natchitoches Parish 13 14 School Board, the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board, the Rapides Parish School 15 Board, the Red River Parish School Board, the Sabine Parish School Board, the 16 Vernon Parish School Board, the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board, the West 17 Carroll Parish School Board, the West Feliciana Parish School Board, and the Winn 18 Parish School Board may provide transportation for any student attending a school 19 of suitable grade approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary 20 Education within the jurisdictional boundaries of the parish or school board who 21 resides one mile thousand feet or less from the school when the school board 22 determines that conditions exist to warrant such transportation. Transportation of 23 students residing one mile thousand feet or less from their school shall be at no cost 24 to the state.

25 \* \*

C. If transportation is not provided by the <u>city</u>, parish, or <del>city</del> <u>other local</u> <u>public</u> school board by reason of <u>for</u> economically justifiable reasons approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with the provisions of Subsection H of this Section, the Department of Education, in

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1accordance with the provisions of Subsection D hereof of this Section, shall2reimburse the parent or tutor of any student who resides more than one mile thousand3feet from the school attended by the student to the extent and in the amounts that4funds are so appropriated by the legislature, but in no event shall such reimbursement5exceed one hundred twenty-five dollars per student or three hundred seventy-five6dollars for any one family.

- 7 \* \* \*
- 8 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

9 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

10 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

11 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

12 effective on the day following such approval.

## 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)]

### Hines

HB No. 1376

**Abstract:** Requires a local school board to provide free transportation for a student attending a BESE-approved school within the local board's jurisdictional boundaries if the student resides more than 1,000 feet from the school. Permits certain school boards to provide transportation to a student who resides 1,000 feet or less from the school under specified conditions and with certain limitations. Also provides relative to certain reimbursements from the state Dept. of Education when the required transportation is not provided by a local school board for economically justified reasons.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:158(A)(1)) requires (with certain permitted exceptions) each parish and city school board to provide free transportation for any student attending a school of suitable grade approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) within the jurisdictional boundaries of the local board if the student resides more than one mile from such school.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> except to require transportation if the student resides more than 1,000 feet from such school rather than more than one mile from the school. Also makes technical corrections to refer to city, parish, and other local public school boards rather than parish and city school boards.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:158(A)(2) and (3)) authorizes 17 specified local school boards to provide transportation for any student attending a BESE-approved school of suitable grade within the jurisdictional boundaries of the local board who resides one mile or less from the school when the school board determines that conditions warrant the transportation. Specifies that such transportation shall be at no cost to the state.

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<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> except to refer to a student who resides 1,000 feet or less from the school rather than one mile or less from the school.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:158(C)) provides that if transportation is not provided by the parish or city school board for economically justifiable reasons approved by BESE, the state Dept. of Education shall reimburse the parent or tutor of any student who resides more than one mile from the student's school to the extent and in the amounts that funds are appropriated by the legislature. Specifies that in no event shall the reimbursement exceed \$125 per student or \$375 for any one family per year.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> except to provide for reimbursement to the parent or tutor of any student who resides more than 1,000 feet from the school attended rather than more than one mile from the school attended.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:158(A)(1), (2), and (3) and (C))