

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 269

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Requires schools participating in the voucher program to separately account for funds received as tuition payments

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4022(3), relative to public funds received by schools as
3 tuition payments under the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence
4 Program; to provide relative to auditing of such funds; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:4022(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §4022. Participating schools; requirements

9 Each participating school shall:

10 * * *

11 (3) Submit to the department an independent financial audit of the school
12 conducted by a certified public accountant who has been approved by the legislative
13 auditor. Such audit shall be accompanied by the auditor's statement that the report
14 is free of material misstatements and fairly presents the participating school's
15 maximum tuition or actual cost of educating a student pursuant to R.S. 17:4016. The
16 audit shall be limited in scope to those records necessary for the department to make
17 scholarship payments to the participating school and shall be submitted to the
18 legislative auditor for review and investigation of any irregularities or audit findings.

19 The participating school shall account for all scholarship funds separately from other
20 funds in a manner, prescribed by the legislative auditor, that allows thorough

Proposed law retains present law except to also require that schools account for all scholarship funds separately from other funds in a manner prescribed by the legislative auditor that allows thorough auditing of the receipt and expenditure of scholarship funds.

Present law requires the participating school to return to the state any funds that the legislative auditor determines were expended in a manner inconsistent with state law or program regulations. Requires the department to pay the costs of the audits. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law further requires that the department place on probation a participating school that does not comply with present law relative to the required audits; a school on probation is prohibited from enrolling additional voucher students. Proposed law retains present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:4022(3))