

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 359

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Provides for a temporary cessation of the letter grade component of the school and district accountability system

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:10.1(G) and to repeal R.S. 17:10.1(G), effective July 1, 2016, relative to  
3 the school and district accountability system; to provide for a temporary cessation  
4 of the letter grade system; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:10.1(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state  
8 board

9 \* \* \*

10 G. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection F of this Section, neither  
11 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education nor the Department of  
12 Education shall assign a letter grade to any school or district or in any other way  
13 implement the provisions of this Subsection from July 1, 2014, through July 1, 2016.

14 Section 2. R.S. 17:10.1(G) as enacted by this Act is hereby repealed in its entirety.

15 Section 3.(A) Section 1 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon  
16 signature of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of  
17 the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article  
18 III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and  
19 subsequently approved by the legislature, Section 1 and this Section of this Act shall become  
20 effective on the day following such approval.

1 (B) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2016.

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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)]

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Harrison

HB No. 359

**Abstract:** Provides for a temporary cessation of the letter grade component of the school and district accountability system.

Present law provides for the development and implementation of a school and district accountability system which requires and supports student achievement in each public school. Further states that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) shall provide for a statewide system of accountability for schools and school districts based on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of schools.

Present law (R.S. 17:10.1(F)) provides that BESE, in consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other education stakeholders, shall develop a letter grade system reflective of school and district performance that shall include the following:

- (1) Assignment of a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary school and school district that is based upon the current method of determining school and district performance scores. Any school that has been labeled academically unacceptable shall be assigned a grade of "F".
- (2) Inclusion of a letter grade assigned to each public school and school district in the school report cards compiled by the Dept. of Education and distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district performance scores.
- (3) Creation of an honor roll which recognizes high-performing schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average, which shall also be made public when information relative to school and district performance scores and letter grades are released.

Proposed law provides that, notwithstanding the provisions of present law, neither BESE nor the Dept. of Education shall assign a letter grade to any school or district or in any other way implement the provisions of present law (R.S. 17:10.1(F)) from July 1, 2014, through July 1, 2016.

Effective in part upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action; effective in part July 1, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 17:10.1(G); Repeals R.S. 17:10.1(G))