

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 381

BY REPRESENTATIVES GEYMANN AND POPE

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Creates the Student Standards Commission to develop state standards for required subjects for public school students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(3) and (4), (E), (F)(3)(a) and (b)(ii), and (G)(2), to  
3 enact R.S. 36:651(G)(4), and to repeal R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d), relative to education  
4 standards and related assessments; to create the Student Standards Commission to  
5 develop and adopt state education standards for required subjects for public school  
6 students; to provide for commission membership, vacancies, meetings, voting, and  
7 compensation; to provide for implementation of the standards by the State Board of  
8 Elementary and Secondary Education subject to legislative approval; to repeal  
9 provisions relative to implementation of certain standards-based assessments by the  
10 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to delete the requirement that  
11 the state Department of Education develop and implement statewide content  
12 standards for required subjects; and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(A)(3) and (4), (E), (F)(3)(a) and (b)(ii), and (G)(2) are  
15 hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

16 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for  
17 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city  
18 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

19 A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall  
20 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context  
21 clearly indicates a different meaning:

22 \* \* \*



- 1                   (2) The membership of the commission shall be as follows:
- 2                   (a) One member representing each of the following groups, organizations,  
3                   or entities selected by the respective group, organization, or entity:
- 4                   (i) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- 5                   (ii) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- 6                   (iii) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.
- 7                   (iv) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- 8                   (v) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- 9                   (vi) The Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 10                  (vii) The Louisiana Association of School Executives.
- 11                  (b) Two public school principals selected by the presiding officer of the  
12                  Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 13                  (c) Two public elementary school teachers, one math teacher and one  
14                  English teacher, selected by the presiding officer of the Louisiana Association of  
15                  Principals.
- 16                  (d) Two public high school teachers, one math teacher and one English  
17                  teacher, selected by the presiding officer of the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 18                  (e) Two supervisors of instruction employed in local school systems selected  
19                  by the president of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- 20                  (f) Two parents of public school students selected by the Louisiana Parent-  
21                  Teacher Association.
- 22                  (g) Two parents of public school students selected by the presiding officer of  
23                  the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 24                  (h) Two deans of colleges of education from Louisiana public postsecondary  
25                  education institutions, to be appointed by the commissioner of higher education.
- 26                  (i) Two members of the teaching faculty in engineering, math, science, or  
27                  literature from Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions, to be  
28                  appointed by the commissioner of higher education.

1           (j) Two members of the board of directors of the Louisiana Association of  
2           Chamber of Commerce Executives selected by the president of the board of  
3           directors.

4           (k) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
5           or his designee.

6           (l) The state superintendent of education or his designee.

7           (m) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.

8           (n) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.

9           (o) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.

10           (3) Appointed members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the  
11           appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original  
12           appointment.

13           (4) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
14           shall convene the commission for its first meeting not later than August 30, 2014.

15           (5) The commission shall elect from among its members a chairman and  
16           such other officers as it deems appropriate.

17           (6) A majority of the commission's total membership, as provided by this  
18           Subsection, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A favorable  
19           vote of two-thirds of the total membership is required for adoption of the standards  
20           as required in this Subsection.

21           (7) All legislative members of the commission shall receive the same per  
22           diem and travel allowance for attending meetings of the commission as is normally  
23           provided for meetings of legislative committees. Other members of the commission  
24           shall serve without compensation.

25           (8) The members selected pursuant to Subparagraphs (2)(a) through (j) of  
26           this Subsection shall represent the geographic diversity of the state, to the extent  
27           practical.

28           (9) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide  
29           administrative and staff support to the commission.

1           (10) The commission shall be subject to the Public Records Law and the  
2           Open Meetings Law.

3           (11) In developing the standards, the commission shall also consider and  
4           may recommend the appropriate state assessments to be used to effectively measure  
5           student achievement.

6           (12) The standards developed and adopted by the commission shall be  
7           implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education through  
8           rules and regulations promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure  
9           Act after the approval of the standards by the legislature by concurrent resolution  
10          adopted by a favorable vote of at least a majority of the elected members of each  
11          house. The state board shall submit the standards to the legislature on or before  
12          March first of any given year. The legislature may return the standards to the state  
13          board and include any recommendations for changes to the standards it deems  
14          necessary or appropriate. Except as provided in Paragraph (13) of this Subsection,  
15          the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not implement  
16          standards that have not been approved by the legislature pursuant to this Paragraph.

17          (13) Until the implementation of the initial standards developed by the  
18          commission and approved by the legislature as provided in this Subsection, the State  
19          Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall implement the state standards  
20          used immediately prior to the adoption of the Common Core State Standards by the  
21          board.

22           F.

23                                   \*       \*       \*

24           (3)(a) In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in  
25           ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) and (d) of this Subsection, an alternate  
26           assessment shall be provided for and administered only to those students with  
27           disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria developed by the state Department  
28           of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
29           Education. A determination of whether any student meets the eligibility criteria

1 established by the state Department of Education shall be made by the student's  
2 Individual Education Plan committee and shall be so noted on that student's  
3 Individual Education Plan. The alternate assessment developed pursuant to this  
4 Paragraph shall be administered on a schedule determined by the state Department  
5 of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
6 Education. The alternate assessment shall be part of the Louisiana Education  
7 Assessment Program otherwise provided for in this Subsection and the alternate  
8 assessment shall be used for information, accountability, compliance, and planning  
9 purposes as provided by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

10 (b)

11 \* \* \*

12 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take  
13 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and  
14 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared  
15 specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-  
16 based assessments prescribed in ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) and (d) of this  
17 Subsection. Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test  
18 questions and shall provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other  
19 accommodations deemed appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan  
20 committee. However, any such accommodations shall not breach test security or  
21 invalidate the meaning of the test score or the purpose of the test.

22 \* \* \*

23 G.

24 \* \* \*

25 (2) Each ~~parish or city~~ local school board plan for pupil progression shall be  
26 based upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with the Louisiana  
27 Competency-Based Education Program ~~enumerated~~ described in ~~R.S. 17:24.4(B)~~  
28 Subsection B of this Section, which comply with the provisions of ~~R.S.~~  
29 ~~17:24.4(A)(3)~~ Paragraph (A)(3) of this Section, and which supplement the



the department to develop modified achievement standards and use alternative assessments for certain students with persistent academic disabilities. Proposed law retains present law except repeals present law requirement that the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math be based on nationally recognized content standards.

Proposed law creates the Students Standards Commission in the Dept. of Education to develop state standards for required subjects. Provides for commission membership, vacancies, meetings, voting, and compensation. Provides that the commission shall be subject to the Public Records Law and the Open Meetings Law. Provides that in developing the standards, the commission shall also consider and may recommend the appropriate assessments to be used to effectively measure student achievement.

Proposed law provides for implementation of the standards by BESE subject to legislative approval of the standards. Requires the state board to submit the standards to the legislature and provides that the legislature may return the standards and include any recommendations for changes. Provides that if the legislature fails to finally approve the initial standards developed and adopted by the commission, BESE shall implement the state standards used immediately prior to BESE's adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Further provides that the legislature shall approve any subsequent changes to the standards before they can be implemented.

Proposed law deletes requirement that the state Dept. of Education develop and implement the statewide content standards for required subjects.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(A)(3) and (4), (E), (F)(3)(a) and (b)(ii), and (G)(2); Adds R.S. 36:651(G)(4); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(d))