

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANEY

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS: Provides relative to procedures for the adoption of textbooks

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:415.1, relative to the adoption of textbooks; to provide with
3 respect to the membership of textbook adoption committees; to require the State
4 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a procedure for public
5 inspection and review of textbooks under consideration for adoption; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:415.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §415.1. Materials; adoption procedures; definition

10 A. Any interested citizen may request that his name be included on the
11 mailing list for textbook adoption information by writing to the ~~Director of the~~
12 ~~Bureau of Materials of Instruction and Textbooks, State~~ state Department of
13 Education, ~~Capitol Station, in~~ Baton Rouge, ~~La.~~ Louisiana. Any person who has
14 made this request shall be timely notified of the name and address of each member
15 of all textbook adoption committees and the Textbook and Media Advisory Council,
16 the times, places, and agenda of all committee and council meetings, and the titles,
17 authors, and publishers of all textbooks proposed for adoption.

18 B.(1) All textbook adoption committees appointed by the state
19 superintendent of ~~elementary and secondary~~ education shall contain a ~~membership~~
20 ~~not less than one-third of which are teachers, not less than one-third of which are~~

1 ~~parents who are not public educators, and the remainder of which are other persons.~~
2 broad cross section of interested persons, including teachers, parents, and individuals
3 with varied backgrounds and experiences. All meetings of textbook adoption
4 committees and the Textbook and Media Advisory Council shall be open to the
5 public. Any member of the public may attend and file written or make oral
6 objections to any textbook under consideration. The State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education shall adopt a form whereby any member of the public may file
8 written objections to any textbook being considered for adoption.

9 (2) For the purposes of this Subsection, the term "teacher" shall mean any
10 person employed by a city or parish school board who, as a condition of
11 employment, is required to hold a valid teaching certificate issued by the state
12 Department of Education.

13 C. The ~~state Department~~ State Board of Elementary and Secondary
14 Education shall ~~ensure that~~ establish a procedure for making all textbooks being
15 considered for state adoption ~~are placed, prior to state adoption and for a period of~~
16 ~~at least ninety days, in two cooperating public library branches in Baton Rouge, in~~
17 ~~three cooperating public library branches in New Orleans to be determined by the~~
18 ~~New Orleans Public Library system, and in a cooperating public library in~~
19 ~~Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Houma, Covington,~~
20 ~~Hammond, Metairie, Marrero, Bossier City, Natchitoches, Ruston, DeRidder, New~~
21 ~~Iberia, Opelousas, Bogalusa, and any other city designated by the superintendent of~~
22 elementary and secondary education. Any interested person may inspect and review
23 the books during the period when they are on display. Four samples of each such
24 textbook shall be made available for such public inspection and review, ~~at each such~~
25 ~~library. Three such samples shall be made available to be checked out from each~~
26 ~~such library by any interested person according to rules and regulations that the state~~
27 ~~Department of Education shall establish for such purpose. The locations and dates~~
28 ~~of availability of such textbooks shall be posted by the state Department of~~

1 ~~Education on its web site in the form of a press release which shall remain posted~~
2 ~~online for the duration of the review period.~~

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)]

Chaney

HB No. 50

Abstract: Changes membership composition of textbook adoption committees and requires BESE to establish a new procedure for public inspection and review of textbooks under consideration for state adoption.

Present law requires textbook adoption committees appointed by the state superintendent of education to contain a membership of at least 1/3 teachers and at least 1/3 parents who are not public educators, the remainder of whom shall be other persons. Proposed law instead requires such committees to contain a broad cross section of interested persons, including teachers, parents, and individuals with varied backgrounds and experiences.

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education to place textbooks being considered for state adoption in public libraries in certain specified cities for public inspection and review for at least 90 days. Proposed law instead requires BESE to establish a procedure for such textbooks to be made available for public inspection and review.

Present law requires that four samples of such textbooks be available for review at these libraries, three copies of which shall be available for check-out from each library according to rules established by the state Dept. of Education. Requires the department to post public inspection and review information on its website. Proposed law deletes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:415.1)