

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY: Provides relative to an accountability system for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4015(2) and (9) and to enact R.S. 17:4021(A)(4) and 4022(7),  
3 relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program; to provide  
4 relative to eligibility requirements for nonpublic schools applying to participate in  
5 the program; to require the Department of Education to develop an accountability  
6 system for participating nonpublic schools; to require compliance with the system  
7 by participating nonpublic schools; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:4015(2) and (9) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
10 17:4021(A)(4) and 4022(7) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §4015. Program administration

12 In administering the program pursuant to this Chapter, the department shall:

13 \* \* \*

14 (2) Receive notice of intent from schools seeking to participate in the  
15 program which shall include the number of available seats per grade and whether the  
16 school elects to offer an enrollment preference to a student based on the parish in  
17 which the student resides, and qualify such schools for participation in the program  
18 if such schools are effective and are providing a quality education to students as set

1 forth in R.S. 17:4012 as determined by the department pursuant to R.S.  
2 17:4021(A)(4). For eligible public schools, the notice of intent shall be submitted  
3 by the principal of the school with the approval of the local superintendent. The  
4 local school board shall delegate the authority to participate in the program to the  
5 local superintendent.

6 \* \* \*

7 (9) ~~On or before August 1, 2012 develop~~ Develop and implement criteria for  
8 participation that include an accountability system for participating students at  
9 participating nonpublic schools that is comparable to and contains the same  
10 components, requirements, and criteria as the school and district accountability  
11 system for public schools, including but not limited to requirements for high stakes  
12 testing, assignment of letter grades to schools, and publishing and reporting of  
13 accountability results. ~~After August 1, 2012, the accountability system shall not be~~  
14 ~~altered except by an act of the legislature, except for adjustments to individual~~  
15 ~~numeric performance targets and thresholds made by the state superintendent of~~  
16 ~~education pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary~~  
17 ~~and Secondary Education as provided in R.S. 17:4025(A).~~

18 \* \* \*

19 §4021. School eligibility

20 A. To be eligible to participate in the program, a nonpublic school shall meet  
21 all of the following criteria:

22 \* \* \*

23 (4) The department has determined that the school is 'effective' using an  
24 accountability system developed and implemented by the department for nonpublic  
25 schools that is comparable to and contains the same components, requirements, and  
26 criteria as the school and district accountability system for public schools, including  
27 but not limited to requirements for high stakes testing, assignment of letter grades  
28 to schools, and publishing and reporting of accountability results.

29 \* \* \*

1 §4022. Participating schools; requirements

2 Each participating school shall:

3 (7) Comply with the accountability system developed pursuant to R.S.

4 17:4015(9).

5 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2015; if vetoed by the governor  
6 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
7 2015, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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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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HB 543 Original

2015 Regular Session

Harrison

**Abstract:** Requires the state Dept. of Education to develop and implement an accountability system for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program and requires compliance by such schools. Requires nonpublic schools applying to participate in the program to be determined as effective schools through the use of an accountability system comparable to the public school accountability system.

Present law, relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence (voucher) Program, requires the state Dept. of Education to develop criteria for participation that include an accountability system for participating students at participating schools. Provides that such system shall not be altered except by legislative Act except for certain numeric adjustments made by the state superintendent of education.

Proposed law deletes present law and instead requires the department to develop and implement an accountability system for participating nonpublic schools that is comparable to and contains the same components, requirements, and criteria as the school and district accountability system for public schools, including but not limited to requirements for high stakes testing, assignment of letter grades to schools, and publishing and reporting of accountability results. Requires participating nonpublic schools to comply with the accountability system.

Proposed law requires that in order for a nonpublic school to be eligible to participate in the program, it must be determined by the department to be effective pursuant to an accountability system provided for by proposed law.

Effective July 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 17:4015(2) and (9); Adds R.S. 17:4021(A)(4) and 4022(7))