

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 562

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Permits local public school boards to assign students to charter schools under certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3991(B)(3), relative to charter schools; to permit city, parish,
3 and other local public school boards to assign students to charter schools under
4 certain circumstances; to provide for such assignment to be based on parental
5 preferences, charter school admission requirements and contracts, and local board
6 policies; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3991(B)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §3991. Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation

10 * * *

11 B. Each proposed charter shall contain or make provision for the following:

12 * * *

13 (3) Admission requirements, if any, that are consistent with the school's role,
14 scope, and mission may be established pursuant to rules promulgated by the state
15 board. Such admission requirements shall be specific and shall include a system for
16 admission decisions which precludes exclusion of pupils based on race, religion,
17 gender, ethnicity, national origin, intelligence level as ascertained by an intelligence
18 quotient examination, or identification as a student with an exceptionality as defined
19 in R.S. 17:1942(B). Such admission requirements may include, however, specific
20 requirements related to a school's mission such as auditions for schools with a

1 performing arts mission or proficiency in a foreign language for schools with a
 2 language immersion mission. Any school which was chartered prior to July 1, 2012,
 3 and which incorporated achievement of a certain academic record as part of its
 4 admission requirements may continue to ~~utilize~~ use such admission requirements.
 5 No local board shall assign any pupil to attend a charter school, except that a local
 6 board in a district in which fifty percent or more of the public schools in the district
 7 are charter schools and that uses a single application and enrollment process adopted
 8 by the local board for public school enrollment may assign a pupil to a charter school
 9 based on such enrollment process, the preferences of the pupil's parent or legal
 10 guardian, the charter school's admission requirements, the charter contract, and the
 11 local board's policies.

12 * * *

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)]

HB 562 Engrossed 2016 Regular Session Leger

Abstract: Permits a local public school board in a district in which a majority of schools are charter schools and that uses a single application and enrollment process to assign students to charter schools based on the preferences of a student's parent or legal guardian, charter school admission requirements and contracts, and local school board policies.

Present law provides relative to charter school requirements, limitations, and prohibitions. Requires that charter school admission requirements be consistent with the school's role, scope, and mission. Requires that the admission requirements include a system for admission decisions which precludes exclusion of students based on race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, intelligence level, or identification as a student with an exceptionality as defined in present law. Provides that such requirements may include specific requirements related to a school's mission such as auditions or proficiency in a foreign language. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits local school boards from assigning students to attend a charter school. Proposed law exempts from this prohibition a local public school board in a district in which 50% or more of the public schools are charter schools and the district uses a single application and enrollment process for public school enrollment. Allows such a board to assign students to charter schools based on the preferences of the parents, the charter school's admission requirements and contract, and local school board policies.

(Amends R.S. 17:3991(B)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Exempt a local school board in a district in which 50% or more of the public schools are charter schools, instead of a district with one or more charter schools, from present law prohibition on assignment of pupils to charter schools.
2. Add that the assignment of pupils to charter schools in such a district may be based on the charter school admission requirements and contract and the local school board policies.