

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVES DIXON AND SMITH

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

STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: Provides relative to eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school and prohibits the denial of admission or readmission based on certain student characteristics

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221(B), relative to school attendance; to provide relative to
3 eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school; to prohibit city,
4 parish, and other local public school boards from denying admission or readmission
5 to students based on certain characteristics; to provide relative to the admission or
6 readmission of students who are twenty years of age or older; and to provide for
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:221(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §221. School attendance; compulsory ages; duty of parents; excessive absences;
11 condition for driving privileges

12 * * *

13 B.(1) ~~No A~~ city, parish, or other local public school board shall ~~deny grant~~
14 admission or readmission to school ~~of~~ to any student ~~of suitable age who resides~~
15 ~~within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally~~
16 ~~excluded from attending school.~~ who meets all of the following criteria:

17 (a) Resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system.

18 (b) Meets the eligibility requirements for school entrance pursuant to R.S.

19 17:222(A).

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)]

Dixon

HB No. 95

Abstract: Provides eligibility criteria for admission or readmission to a public school and prohibits a school board from denying admission or readmission based on certain student characteristics; provides relative to admission of certain older students.

Present law prohibits a public school board from denying admission or readmission to school to any student of suitable age who resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system unless such student is legally excluded from attending school.

Proposed law requires a public school board to grant admission or readmission to school to any student who meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Resides within the geographic boundaries of the school system.
- (2) Meets the eligibility requirements for school entrance pursuant to present law, which requires that a child be six by Sept. 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins in order to enter the first grade of any public school.
- (3) Is 21 or younger on Sept. 30th of the calendar year in which the school year begins.
- (4) Has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (5) Is otherwise eligible for enrollment in a public school pursuant to present law and the policies of the local public school board and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Proposed law further prohibits school boards from denying admission or readmission to a student who meets all proposed law criteria, provided in (1) through (5) above, based on any of the following characteristics:

- (1) The student voluntarily withdrew from school.
- (2) The student is pregnant.
- (3) The student is a parent.
- (4) The student is married.

Proposed law:

- (1) Provides that the admission or readmission of a student who is 20 or older on Sept. 30th of the calendar year in which the school year begins shall be limited to grade 11 or grade 12.
- (2) At the discretion of the school board, authorizes the admission or readmission of students who are 22 through 26 on Sept. 30th of the calendar year in which the school year begins and who meet all eligibility criteria provided in proposed law.

- (3) Provides that students, regardless of age, are subject to all provisions of present law, policy of BESE, and local school board policy applicable to public school students, including those pertaining to discipline, suspension, and expulsion.

(Amends R.S. 17:221(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Adds proposed law provisions relative to the admission of students who are 20 or older or who are 22 through 26.
2. Adds proposed law provision that all students are subject to laws and policies, including those pertaining to discipline, suspension, and expulsion.