

2015 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 267

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

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

STUDENTS. Provides relative to charter school funding. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3991(B)(1)(a)(i) and (b), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 17:3995(A)(1), and R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(a), and to repeal R.S. 17:3995(A)(3), relative to charter schools; to provide relative to charter school funding and the determination of the per-pupil amount received by certain charter schools; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3991(B)(1)(a)(i) and (b), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 17:3995(A)(1), and R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

* * *

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

(1)(a)(i) That for Type 1 and Type 2 charter schools created as new schools, the percentage of the total number of pupils enrolled in the charter school based on the October first pupil membership who are at-risk, in the manner provided in R.S. 17:3973(1)(a), shall be equal to not less than eighty-five percent of the average

1 percentage of pupils enrolled in the local public school districts from which the
2 charter school enrolls its students who are eligible to participate in the federal free
3 and reduced lunch program or who have been identified as a student with an
4 exceptionality as defined in R.S. 17:1942, not including gifted and talented. The
5 remaining number of pupils enrolled in the charter school which would be required
6 to have the same percentage of at-risk pupils as the percentage of pupils in the
7 district who are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch
8 program or who have been identified as a student with an exceptionality as
9 defined in R.S. 17:1942, not including gifted and talented, may be comprised of
10 pupils who are at-risk as is otherwise provided in R.S. 17:3973(1). For the purposes
11 of fulfilling the provisions of this Section, the at-risk percentage for the city or parish
12 school system shall remain fixed during the term of the approved charter at the
13 percentage which existed during the school year that the charter proposal was
14 approved, unless otherwise specified in the charter that the charter school will reflect
15 the current year's at-risk percentage.

16 * * *

17 (b)(i) That for Type 2 charter schools created as a result of a conversion,
18 Type 3 and Type 4 charter schools, the percentage of the total number of pupils
19 enrolled in the charter school based on the October first pupil membership who are
20 at-risk, in the manner provided in R.S. 17:3973(1)(a), unless otherwise agreed to as
21 part of the charter agreement, by the chartering authority, shall be equal to not less
22 than the percentage of the total of pupils enrolled in the school in the school year
23 prior to the establishment of the charter school that were eligible to participate in the
24 federal free and reduced cost lunch program or were identified as a student with
25 an exceptionality as defined in R.S. 17:1942, not including gifted and talented.

26 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of Item (i) of this Subparagraph, that for
27 Type 2, Type 3, and Type 4 charter schools in Richland Parish, the percentage of the
28 total number of pupils enrolled in the charter school based on the October first pupil
29 membership who are at risk, in the manner provided in R.S. 17:3973(1)(a), shall be,

1 as near as practicable, not more than the percentage of the total number of pupils
 2 enrolled in the public elementary and secondary schools and in the state-approved
 3 nonpublic elementary and secondary schools located in the local public school
 4 district in which the charter school is located who are eligible to participate in the
 5 federal free and reduced lunch program or who have been identified as a student
 6 with an exceptionality as defined in R.S. 17:1942, not including gifted and
 7 talented. However, in no case shall the initial enrollment of such a school nor the
 8 cohort of students enrolled for each new school year have, as near as practicable,
 9 fewer than fifty percent students who are at risk in the manner provided in R.S.
 10 17:3973(1)(a).

11 * * *

12 §3995. Charter school funding

13 A.(1) For the purpose of funding, a Type 1, Type 3, Type 3B, and Type 4
 14 charter school shall be considered an approved public school of the local school
 15 board entering into the charter agreement and shall receive a per pupil amount each
 16 year from the local school board based on the October first membership count of the
 17 charter school. Type 1B and Type 2 charter schools shall receive a per pupil amount
 18 each year authorized by the state board each year as provided in the approved
 19 minimum foundation program ~~approved~~ formula. The per pupil amount provided to
 20 a Type 1, 1B, 2, 3, 3B, or 4 charter school shall be computed annually and shall be
 21 equal to ~~no less than~~ the per pupil amount provided through the minimum
 22 foundation program formula, determined by the allocation weights in the
 23 formula based upon special student characteristics or needs, received by the
 24 school district in which the ~~charter school is located~~ student resides from the
 25 following sources based on the district's October first membership count:

26 (a) The state-funded per pupil allocation, based upon the weighted student
 27 membership count, received by the district pursuant to the most recent legislatively
 28 approved minimum foundation program formula ~~resolution~~, including all levels and
 29 allocation weights based upon special student characteristics or needs as

- (1) For Type 1 and Type 2 charter schools created as new schools, the percentage of the total number of at-risk pupils (by reason of eligibility to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program) enrolled in the charter school based on the October 1 pupil membership shall be equal to not less than 85% of the average percentage of pupils enrolled in the local public school districts from which the charter school enrolls its students who are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program. Provides that the remaining number of pupils enrolled in the charter school which would be required to have the same percentage of at-risk pupils as the percentage of pupils in the district who are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program may be comprised of pupils who are otherwise at risk as defined in present law.
- (2) For Type 2 charter schools created as the result of a conversion, Type 3, and Type 4 charter schools, the percentage of the total number of at-risk pupils (by reason of eligibility to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program) enrolled in the charter school based on the October 1 pupil membership (unless otherwise agreed to as part of the charter agreement by the chartering authority) shall be equal to not less than the percentage of the total of pupils enrolled in the school in the school year prior to the establishment of the charter school that were eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program.
- (3) Notwithstanding the requirements of present law as delineated in (2) above, for Type 2, Type 3, and Type 4 charter schools in Richland Parish, the percentage of the total number of pupils enrolled in the charter school based on the October 1 pupil membership who are at-risk (by reason of eligibility to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program) shall be, as near as practicable, not more than the percentage of the total number of pupils enrolled in the public and state approved nonpublic schools located in the public school district in which the charter school is located who are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program. Additionally provides that the initial enrollment of such a school, nor the cohort of students enrolled for each new school year, have (as near as practicable) fewer than 50% students who are at-risk by reason of eligibility to participate in the federal free and reduced cost lunch program.

Proposed law retains present law but additionally includes students identified with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, in the required enrollment percentages for all charter schools that apply to pupils eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced lunch program.

Charter School Funding

Present law (R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)) provides that for funding purposes, Types 1, 3, 3B, and 4 charter schools shall be considered approved public schools of the local school board entering into the charter agreement and shall receive a per pupil amount each year from the local school board based on the Oct. 1 membership count of the charter school. Provides that Type 1B and Type 2 charter schools shall receive a per pupil amount each year authorized by the state board as provided in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula.

Present law specifies that the per pupil amount provided to Type 1, 1B, 2, 3, and 4 charter schools shall be computed annually and shall be equal to no less than the per pupil amount received by the school district in which the charter school is located from the following sources based on the district's Oct. 1 membership count:

- (1) The state-funded per pupil allocation received by the district pursuant to the most recent legislatively approved minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, including all levels.

- (2) Local revenues received during the prior year by the school district from the following sources:
- (a) Sales and use taxes, less any tax collection fee paid by the school district.
 - (b) Ad valorem taxes, less any tax collection fee paid by the school district.
 - (c) Earnings from 16th section lands owned by the school district.

Relative to local revenues received during the prior year from the specified sources (see (2) above), present law provides that such revenues shall exclude any portion which has been specifically dedicated by the legislature or by voter approval to capital outlay and debt service. Further provides that such exclusion shall be applicable only to a charter school housed in a facility or facilities provided by the district in which the charter school is located.

Relative to local revenues received during the prior year from the specified sources (see (2) above), present law additionally provides that such revenues received by the Orleans Parish School Board also shall exclude certain other amounts.

Proposed law retains present law, but specifies that the per pupil amount provided to Type 1, 1B, 2, 3, and 4 charter schools shall be equal to the per pupil amount provided through the MFP formula determined by the allocation weights in the formula based upon special student characteristics or needs. Further specifies that the per pupil amount provided to such charter schools shall be the per pupil amount received by the school district in which the student resides instead of the district in which the charter school is located.

Proposed law retains present law as delineated in (1) above, but specifies that the state-funded per pupil allocation used for computing the per pupil amount for charter schools will be based upon the weighted student membership count received by the district pursuant to the most recent legislatively approved MFP formula including all levels and allocation weights based upon special student characteristics or needs as provided in the formula.

Present law (R.S. 17:3995(A)(3)) requires a district with one or more Type 3B charter schools to distribute MFP funds to each Type 1, 3, 3B, and 4 charter school using the weighted allocations provided for in the most recently adopted MFP formula, but exempts the school board in a parish that contains a municipality of 300,000 or more persons from using this weighted funding distribution requirement until the 2018-2019 fiscal year for Type 1 and Type 3 charter schools in operation prior to the 2013-2014 school year. Specifies that until that time, these schools shall be funded as provided in present law. Further specifies that for all other Type 1, 3, and 4 charter schools in such a parish, the school board may request the use of a differentiated distribution methodology to be approved by the state Dept. of Education prior to implementation.

Proposed law deletes these provisions.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3991(B)(1)(a)(i) and (b), 3995(A)(1)(intro para) and R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(a); repeals R.S. 17:3995(A)(3)).