

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 298

BY SENATOR DONAHUE

BESE. Requires BESE to broadcast its meetings over the Internet and to archive such broadcasts. (8/15/10)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:7.8, relative to the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State Board  
3 of Elementary and Secondary Education; to require the board to broadcast audio and  
4 video of the proceedings of all meetings of the board, and standing committees  
5 thereof, live via the Internet; to require that all such broadcasted proceedings be  
6 archived on the Department of Education website; to provide for applicability; and  
7 to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:7.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§7.8. Internet broadcast of proceedings; records; maintenance; applicability**

11 **A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall**  
12 **provide for the audio and video broadcast, live via the Internet, of the**  
13 **proceedings of all meetings of the board and standing committees appointed by**  
14 **the board as part of its operational structure and process.**

15 **B. The board shall provide that the audio and video of the proceedings**  
16 **of all meetings so broadcast shall be recorded and maintained for a minimum**  
17 **of three years, and that such recorded meetings shall be available to the public**

1           **for viewing through a link clearly identified on the Internet home page of the**  
2           **state Department of Education website.**

3           **C. The provisions of this Section shall apply to all meetings of the board,**  
4           **and standing committees thereof, but shall not apply to executive sessions held**  
5           **in accordance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law as provided in R.S. 42:4.1**  
6           **et seq.**

7           **D. The audio and video records created pursuant to this Section shall**  
8           **not be construed in a manner to be the official record, or any part of the official**  
9           **record, of the proceedings of a meeting of the board or any standing committee**  
10           **thereof.**

11           **E. If the board is precluded from fulfilling the requirements of this**  
12           **Section due to a technical problem beyond its control, the failure to broadcast**  
13           **or record the proceedings of a meeting of the board, or a standing committee**  
14           **thereof, shall not be construed to be a violation of the provisions of this Section.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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#### DIGEST

Donahue (SB 298)

Proposed law requires State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide for the live audio and video broadcast, via the Internet, of the proceedings of all meetings of the board and standing committees appointed by the board as part of its operational structure and process.

Requires that the audio and video of the proceedings of all meetings so broadcast be recorded and maintained for a minimum of three years. Further requires that such recorded meetings be available to the public for viewing through a link clearly identified on the Internet home page of the Department of Education website.

Provides that the requirements of proposed law shall apply to all meetings of the board, and standing committees thereof, but shall not apply to executive sessions held in accordance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Provides that audio and video records created pursuant to proposed law shall not be construed in a manner to be the official record, or any part of the official record, of the proceedings of a meeting of the board or any standing committee thereof.

Provides that failure to fulfill the requirements of proposed law due to a technical problem beyond the board's control shall not be construed to be a violation of the provisions of proposed law.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Adds R.S. 17:7.8)