

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 52

BY SENATOR MORRISH

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

BESE. Provides relative to the review of textbooks and other instructional materials.  
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:351.1(C)(3)(a) and to enact R.S. 17:351.1(F), relative to  
3 textbooks and other instructional materials; to provide relative to the review of  
4 textbooks and other instructional materials; to provide relative to eligibility of  
5 reviewed textbooks and other instructional materials for certain funding; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:351.1(C)(3)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 17:351.1(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §351.1. Textbooks and other instructional materials; review; adoption;  
11 procurement; distribution

12 A. \* \* \*

13 C.(1) \* \* \*

14 (3)(a) For the adoption of textbooks and other instructional materials that  
15 have not been reviewed by the state Department of Education pursuant to this  
16 Section, such policies and regulations shall provide for the establishment of ~~review~~;  
17 (i) Review committees composed of classroom teachers and other educators,

1 all of whom shall be employees of Louisiana public schools, parents of students  
2 enrolled in Louisiana public schools, and other educational stakeholders in Louisiana  
3 who have interest in or knowledge of curriculum and the subject matter under  
4 consideration.

5 **(ii) Evaluation criteria and procedures by which review committees shall**  
6 **determine the extent to which textbooks and other instructional materials**  
7 **submitted for review align with state content standards.**

8 \* \* \*

9 **F. Textbooks and other instructional materials that have not been**  
10 **reviewed by the state department pursuant to the provisions of this Section but**  
11 **have been reviewed by a public school governing authority and determined to**  
12 **be aligned with state content standards shall be given equal weight by the**  
13 **department in all matters, including determination of eligibility for federal or**  
14 **state funding.**

15 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
19 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

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DIGEST

SB 52 Original 2019 Regular Session Morrish

Present law requires the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to prescribe a process for the review, adoption, procurement, and distribution of free textbooks and other instructional materials used at the elementary and secondary level. Further requires BESE to establish a process whereby the state Department of Education (DOE) shall review textbooks and other instructional materials in the core subject areas and determine the degree to which each aligns with state content standards.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires each public school governing authority to adopt policies and regulations for the adoption and use of textbooks and other instructional materials and the establishment of review committees to review textbooks and other instructional materials that have not been reviewed by DOE.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires that the policies and regulations adopted by a public school governing authority establish evaluation criteria and procedures by which the review committees shall determine the extent to which textbooks and other instructional materials submitted for review align with state content standards.

Proposed law requires textbooks and other instructional materials that have not been reviewed by DOE but have been reviewed by a public school governing authority and deemed aligned with state content standards be given equal weight by DOE in all matters, including determination of eligibility for federal or state funding.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:351.1(C)(3)(a); adds R.S. 17: 351.1(F))