

SENATE BILL No. 109

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-19-2-10; IC 20-26.

Synopsis: Accreditation of schools. Provides that the state board of education (state board) may accredit a nonpublic school that has: (1) received a provisional or candidate accreditation from a nationally or regionally recognized accrediting body recognized by the state board; or (2) demonstrated to the state board the nonpublic school's accomplishments based on the nonpublic school's performance in another state. Provides that the state board may authorize a school participating in the choice scholarship program or that receives contributions from a scholarship granting organization to sponsor another nonpublic school that has demonstrated to the state board the nonpublic school's competency or accomplishments and accredit or provisionally accredit the nonpublic school. Provides that the state board may accredit a nonpublic school that enters into a contract with the state board to become a freeway school at the time the nonpublic school enters the contract. Makes technical corrections.

Effective: July 1, 2017.

Kruse

January 4, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



First Regular Session 120th General Assembly (2017)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 109

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-19-2-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.65-2012,
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 10. (a) It is the policy of the state that the state:
4 (1) recognizes that nonpublic schools provide education to
5 children in Indiana;
6 (2) has an interest in ensuring that all Indiana children are well
7 educated in both curricular and extracurricular programs; and
8 (3) should facilitate the transferability of comparable academic
9 credit between appropriate nonpublic schools and state supported
10 educational institutions.
11 (b) The state board shall implement a system of recognition of the
12 educational programs of nonpublic schools to fulfill the policy set forth
13 in subsection (a).
14 (c) The system of recognition described under subsection (b) must:
15 (1) be voluntary in nature with respect to the nonpublic school;
16 (2) recognize the characteristics that distinguish nonpublic
17 schools from public schools; and



1 (3) be a recognition system that is separate from the accreditation
 2 standards required of public schools and available to nonpublic
 3 schools under section ~~8(a)(5)~~ **8(a)(4)** of this chapter.

4 (d) This section does not prohibit a nonpublic school from seeking
 5 accreditation under section ~~8(a)(5)~~ **8(a)(4)** of this chapter.

6 ~~(e) The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement~~
 7 ~~this section.~~

8 ~~(f)~~ **(e)** The department shall waive accreditation standards for an
 9 accredited nonpublic alternative school that enters into a contract with
 10 a school corporation to provide alternative education services for
 11 students who have:

12 (1) dropped out of high school;

13 (2) been expelled; or

14 (3) been sent to the nonpublic alternative school due to the
 15 students' lack of success in the public school environment;

16 to accommodate the nonpublic alternative school's program and student
 17 population. A nonpublic alternative school to which this subsection
 18 applies is not subject to being placed in a category or designation under
 19 IC 20-31-8-4. However, the nonpublic alternative school must comply
 20 with all state reporting requirements and submit a school improvement
 21 growth model on the anniversary date of the nonpublic alternative
 22 school's original accreditation.

23 **(f) The state board may accredit a nonpublic school that has:**

24 **(1) received a provisional or candidate accreditation from a**
 25 **nationally or regionally recognized accrediting body**
 26 **recognized by the state board; or**

27 **(2) demonstrated to the state board the nonpublic school's**
 28 **accomplishments based on the nonpublic school's**
 29 **performance in another state.**

30 **The state board may accredit a nonpublic school under this section**
 31 **at the time the nonpublic school begins operation in Indiana.**

32 **(g) The state board may authorize a school described in**
 33 **IC 20-51-1-4.7 and IC 20-51-1-6 to sponsor another nonpublic**
 34 **school that has demonstrated to the state board the nonpublic**
 35 **school's competency or accomplishments. The state board may**
 36 **accredit or provisionally accredit the nonpublic school sponsored**
 37 **under this subsection.**

38 **(h) The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**
 39 **implement this section.**

40 SECTION 2. IC 20-26-11-31, AS ADDED BY P.L.65-2012,
 41 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 42 JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 31. (a) This section applies to a school corporation



1 that enrolls a student who has legal settlement in another school
 2 corporation for the purpose of the student receiving services from an
 3 accredited nonpublic alternative high school described in
 4 ~~IC 20-19-2-10(f)~~. **IC 20-19-2-10(e).**

5 (b) A school corporation is entitled to receive state tuition support
 6 for a student described in subsection (a) in an amount equal to:

7 (1) the amount received by the school corporation in which the
 8 student is enrolled for ADM purposes; or

9 (2) the amount received by the school corporation in which the
 10 student has legal settlement;

11 whichever is greater.

12 SECTION 3. IC 20-26-15-13, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2005,
 13 SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 14 JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 13. (a) A nonpublic school may enter into a
 15 contract with the state board to become a freeway school.

16 (b) The state board and the governing body of a nonpublic school
 17 must enter into a contract that complies with this chapter to designate
 18 the nonpublic school as a freeway school if the nonpublic school:

19 (1) petitions the state board for designation as a freeway school;
 20 and

21 (2) agrees to comply with this chapter.

22 (c) A nonpublic school becomes a freeway school when the contract
 23 is signed by:

24 (1) the state superintendent, acting for the state board after a
 25 majority of the members of the board have voted in a public
 26 session to enter into the contract; and

27 (2) the president of the governing body of the nonpublic school,
 28 acting for the governing body of the nonpublic school after a
 29 majority of the members of the governing body have voted to
 30 enter into the contract.

31 (d) The state board shall accredit a nonpublic school that:

32 (1) becomes a freeway school under this chapter; and

33 (2) complies with the terms of the contract.

34 **(e) The state board may accredit a nonpublic school under this**
 35 **section at the time the nonpublic school enters into the contract**
 36 **under subsection (a).**

