

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 42

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Wright

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Authorizes parents to appeal a local school board's denial of school enrollment requests to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Item #42)

DIGEST

Present law allows parents to enroll children in the public school of their choice, without regard to residence, school system geographic boundaries, or attendance zones, if both of the following apply:

- (1) The public school in which the student was most recently enrolled or would otherwise attend received a school performance letter grade of "D" or "F" for the most recent school year.
- (2) The school in which the student seeks to enroll received a school performance letter grade of "A", "B", or "C" for the most recent school year and has sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade level.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires each public school governing authority to adopt a policy to govern student transfers authorized by present law. Proposed law requires that the student transfer policy be posted to each public school governing authority's website by May 31, 2021, and reported to the state Dept. of Education by June 30, 2021.

Proposed law authorizes appeals to BESE by students who are denied enrollment into their public school of choice.

Proposed law prohibits BESE from:

- (1) Approving an enrollment request if approval would result in a school exceeding capacity.
- (2) Requiring a school to enroll a student ahead of another student who was on an existing waiting list.

Proposed law requires BESE to pursue funds to provide financial incentives and student supports to schools enrolling students pursuant to present law.

Proposed law requires that school governing authority policies and BESE prioritize requests for intradistrict transfers over interdistrict transfers.

Proposed law provides that if a student chooses a school under a different governing authority, he shall not be included in the school's performance ratings for their first two years of attendance. Present law provides that a student enrolled in a public school shall be counted by the public school system in which he is enrolled for purposes of the minimum foundation program and formula.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that if a student enrolls in a school under jurisdiction of a governing authority then his previous school, the governing authority of the student's prior school shall transfer to the governing authority of the school in which the student is enrolling an amount equal to the MFP formula local cost allocation of the student or school system in which the student enrolls.

(Amends R.S. 17:4035.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete provision that a student be funded in the manner of a student enrolled at a Type 2 charter school. Require instead that if a student transfers from a school under the jurisdiction of one governing authority to another, an amount equal to the per pupil supplemental allocation be transferred to the governing authority of the school in which the student enrolls.
2. Prohibit BESE from approving a request that would cause a school to exceed its capacity and from requiring a student to be enrolled ahead of one on a waiting list.
3. Require that school governing authority policies and BESE prioritize intradistrict priorities.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill

1. Clarifies funding provisions between school governing authorities.
2. Provides that the appeal to BESE may only occur after the transfer is denied by the school's governing authority.