

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 268

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Requires the state Dept. of Education to develop an accountability system for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program and requires compliance with the system by such schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4015(9) and to enact R.S. 17:4022(7), relative to the Student  
3 Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program; to require an accountability  
4 system for participating nonpublic schools; to require compliance with the system  
5 by such schools; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:4015(9) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:4022(7)  
8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §4015. Program administration

10 In administering the program pursuant to this Chapter, the department shall:

11 \* \* \*

12 (9) On or before August 1, ~~2012~~ 2014, develop and implement ~~criteria for~~  
13 ~~participation that include~~ an accountability system for ~~participating students at~~  
14 participating nonpublic schools that is comparable to and contains the same  
15 components, requirements, and criteria as the school and district accountability  
16 system for public schools, including but not limited to requirements for high stakes  
17 testing, assignment of letter grades to schools, and publishing and reporting of  
18 accountability results. ~~After August 1, 2012, the accountability system shall not be~~  
19 ~~altered except by an act of the legislature, except for adjustments to individual~~

1 ~~numeric performance targets and thresholds made by the state superintendent of~~  
2 ~~education pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary~~  
3 ~~and Secondary Education as provided in R.S. 17:4025(A) in the program.~~

4 \* \* \*

5 §4022. Participating schools; requirements

6 Each participating school shall:

7 \* \* \*

8 (7) Comply with the accountability system developed pursuant to R.S.  
9 17:4015(9).

10 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014; if vetoed by the governor  
11 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
12 2014, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Reynolds

HB No. 268

**Abstract:** Requires the state Dept. of Education to develop and implement an accountability system for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program and requires compliance by such schools.

Present law, relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, requires the state Dept. of Education to develop criteria for participation that include an accountability system for participating students at participating schools. Provides that such system shall not be altered except by legislative act except for certain numeric adjustments made by the state superintendent of education.

Proposed law deletes present law and instead requires the department to develop and implement an accountability system for participating nonpublic schools that is comparable to and contains the same components, requirements, and criteria as the school and district accountability system for public schools, including but not limited to requirements for high stakes testing, assignment of letter grades to schools, and publishing and reporting of accountability results. Requires participating nonpublic schools to comply with the accountability system.

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:4015(9); Adds R.S. 17:4022(7))