

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

SCHOOLS/TRANSPORTATION: Prohibits school bus drivers in certain parishes from picking up or dropping off children at school while the bus is in a lane of traffic

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34), relative to the loading and unloading of school
3 busses at schools in certain parishes; to provide relative to adoption of policies and
4 procedures by school governing authorities regarding such loading and unloading;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;
9 alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus turnarounds

10 * * *

11 J. The governing authority of each public school in a parish that contains a
12 municipality with a population of three hundred thousand or more persons according
13 to the latest federal decennial census shall adopt policies and procedures to prohibit
14 a school bus driver from loading or unloading students at the school while the bus
15 is in a traffic lane and to require that such loading and unloading be done on the
16 shoulder of the road, in a school parking lot, or other appropriate off-road location
17 at the school as determined by the governing authority.

18 * * *

19 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

20 * * *

1 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
2 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
3 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
4 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
5 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
6 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
7 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(34) School bus loading and unloading provisions, R.S. 17:158(J).

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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)]

Abramson

HB No. 600

Abstract: Requires certain public school governing authorities and charter schools to adopt policies and procedures prohibiting the loading and unloading of children from school busses while the bus is in a traffic lane.

Present law (R.S. 17:158) requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide a student free transportation to and from school if the student lives within the board's jurisdiction and more than one mile from the school. Further authorizes the school board to provide free transportation to students who live within one mile of the school, if the board determines that conditions warrant such free transportation. Present law further restricts the ability of the school board to eliminate or reduce such free transportation services. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public school, including charter schools, in any parish with a municipality having a population of 300,000 or more persons to prohibit the loading or unloading of students from a school bus at a school while the bus is in a traffic lane. Further requires such governing authorities to adopt policies and procedures providing for the loading and unloading of students at a school in an appropriate off-road location.

(Adds R.S. 17:158(J) and 3996(B)(34))