

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 653

BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED WILLIAMS

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Requires nonpublic schools participating in school choice scholarship programs to administer certain tests to all students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4023 and to enact R.S. 17:4031(D)(6), relative to school
3 choice programs; to require nonpublic schools participating in the Student
4 Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program and the School Choice Pilot
5 Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities to ensure that certain tests are
6 administered to all students; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:4023 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:4031(D)(6)
9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §4023. Testing

11 A participating nonpublic school shall ensure that ~~scholarship recipients~~ all
12 students enrolled in the school are administered all examinations required pursuant
13 to the Louisiana School and District Accountability System at the prescribed grade
14 levels ~~including the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program, the integrated~~
15 ~~Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP), and graduation exit~~
16 ~~examinations.~~

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18 §4031. School choice; students with exceptionalities; pilot program; establishment;
19 purpose; student eligibility; nonpublic school eligibility; testing;
20 administration; implementation; reporting

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(6) A participating nonpublic school shall ensure that all students enrolled in the school are administered all examinations required pursuant to the Louisiana School and District Accountability System at the prescribed grade levels.

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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)]

Alfred Williams

HB No. 653

Abstract: Requires nonpublic schools participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program and the School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (voucher programs) to ensure that all school accountability program tests are administered to all students attending the schools.

Present law (Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program) provides for a school choice program for eligible k-6 students. Provides that eligible students shall be those in Orleans Parish from families with a total income not exceeding 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines. Provides for scholarships to be awarded to eligible students to attend public and nonpublic schools in Orleans Parish that volunteer to participate in the program and meet certain eligibility requirements. Requires participating nonpublic schools to ensure that scholarship recipients are administered all examinations required pursuant to the state's school and district accountability program.

Present law (School Choice Pilot Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities) provides for a two-year pilot program in parishes with a population in excess of 190,000 (currently, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, and St. Tammany). Provides for student eligibility including that the student is determined to be in need of special education services for specified exceptionalities, is residing within a pilot program parish, and is entering kindergarten or grades one through eight. Provides for nonpublic school eligibility, requirements, and authority. Permits parents/guardians of eligible students to apply for educational certificates for the cost of educational services offered by eligible nonpublic schools.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that nonpublic schools participating in both programs shall ensure that all students enrolled in the schools are administered all examinations required pursuant to the school and district accountability system at the prescribed grade levels.

(Amends R.S. 17:4023; Adds R.S. 17:4031(D)(6))