

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 685

BY REPRESENTATIVE SAM JONES

STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: Raises minimum age at which certain children may attend BESE-approved adult education programs rather than attending school from 16 to 17

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221(I), relative to school attendance; to change the minimum
3 age at which certain students may enroll in adult education programs that are
4 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education rather than
5 attending school; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:221(I) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §221. School attendance; compulsory ages; duty of parents; excessive absences;
9 consent to withdraw; condition for driving privileges

10 * * *

11 I. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a child who is at least ~~sixteen~~
12 seventeen years of age and who meets criteria established by the State Board of
13 Elementary and Secondary Education for enrolling in an adult education program
14 that is approved by the board from enrolling in and attending such a program. A
15 parent, tutor, or other person responsible for the school attendance of a child who is
16 at least ~~sixteen~~ seventeen years of age but under age eighteen and who is enrolled in
17 and is fulfilling the attendance requirements of an adult education program that is
18 approved by the board shall be considered to be in compliance with the school
19 attendance provisions of Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section.

20 * * *

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)]

Sam Jones

HB No. 685

Abstract: Raises minimum age at which certain children may attend BESE-approved adult education programs rather than attending school from 16 to 17.

Present law requires every parent (or certain other persons) having control or charge of any child from that child's seventh birthday until his 18th birthday to send the child to a public or private day school unless the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday. Specifies that whoever violates present law shall be fined not more than \$250 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes a child who is at least 16 and meets criteria established by BESE to enroll in and attend a BESE-approved adult education program. Provides that individuals responsible for a child who is enrolled in and fulfilling the attendance requirements of such a program shall be considered to be in compliance with present law. Proposed law raises such minimum age from 16 to 17 and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:221(I))