

ACT No. 196

HOUSE BILL NO. 763

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTEGO, BARRAS, BURRELL, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, DIXON, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRISON, HUVAL, JONES, KLECKLEY, NANCY LANDRY, LEBAS, MONTOUCET, PIERRE, RICHARD, ROBIDEAUX, ST. GERMAIN, TALBOT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATOR LAFLEUR

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(a)(introductory paragraph) and to enact R.S.
3 17:273.3(E), (F), and (G), relative to foreign language immersion programs in public
4 schools; to prohibit local school boards from denying enrollment in a foreign
5 language immersion program to certain students; to provide with respect to
6 requirements for the establishment, continuation, and certification of such programs;
7 to provide restrictions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(a)(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and
11 reenacted and R.S. 17:273.3(E), (F), and (G) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §273.3. Foreign language immersion programs; creation by local school boards;
13 parent petition

14 * * *

15 C.

16 * * *

17 (2)(a) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a local school board, if
18 requested in writing by the ~~parent or legal guardian~~ parents or legal guardians of at
19 least twenty-five students seeking to be enrolled in kindergarten or of at least twenty-
20 five students seeking to be enrolled in first grade who reside within the jurisdictional

1 boundaries of the school district, shall establish a foreign language immersion
2 program for such students, provided that all of the following apply:

3 * * *

4 E. A local public school board shall not deny enrollment in a foreign
5 language immersion program to any student if all of the following conditions are
6 met:

7 (1) The minimum foundation program formula provides funding to local
8 school systems employing foreign language teachers to provide salary supplements
9 for such teachers at a level equal to or greater than the level of funding provided for
10 this purpose through such formula for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

11 (2) A sufficient number of foreign language teachers with the required
12 credentials as prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
13 are available through programs administered by the Department of Education and the
14 Council for the Development of French in Louisiana to accommodate all interested
15 students in the program.

16 (3) The student resides within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school
17 district.

18 (4) The student applies for enrollment in such a program by no later than
19 March first of the school year prior to such enrollment.

20 (5) If the student is entering second grade or above, he is sufficiently
21 proficient in the target language or is transferring from a certified foreign language
22 program in another Louisiana school district.

23 F. The requirements of Subparagraph (C)(2)(b) and Subsection E of this
24 Section shall apply to a foreign language immersion program established prior to the
25 2012-2013 school year. The local school board shall ensure that such program is
26 designated as a Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program by the State Board
27 of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with R.S. 17:273.2 by not
28 later than July 1, 2017.

29 G. Nothing in this Section shall contravene any order of a court of competent
30 jurisdiction providing for the assignment of pupils within the school system.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014; if vetoed by the governor
2 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
3 2014, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____