

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 848

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Provides relative to requirements for enrollment of economically disadvantaged students in charter schools for children of military personnel

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3973(4)(e) and 3991(B)(1)(a)(ii)(introductory paragraph),  
3 (bb), and (cc), relative to charter schools; to provide relative to the definition of  
4 students who are economically disadvantaged for purposes of charter school  
5 enrollment; to provide relative to student eligibility for free and reduced price meals  
6 as included in such definition; to provide relative to the requirements for the  
7 enrollment of economically disadvantaged students and other students in charter  
8 schools for the dependent children of military personnel; and to provide for related  
9 matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 17:3973(4)(e) and 3991(B)(1)(a)(ii)(introductory paragraph), (bb),  
12 and (cc) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

13 §3973. Definitions

14 As used in this Chapter, the following words, terms, and phrases shall have  
15 the meanings ascribed to them in this Section except when the context clearly  
16 indicates a different meaning:

17 \* \* \*

18 (4) "Economically disadvantaged" means any one of the following  
19 characteristics of a student:

20 \* \* \*

1 (e) Is eligible ~~for to participate in the federal free or reduced price meals~~  
2 ~~based on the latest available data~~ program but is not necessarily participating in the  
3 program.

4 \* \* \*

5 §3991. Charter schools; requirements; limitations; renewal; amendment; revocation  
6 \* \* \*

7 B. Each proposed charter shall contain or make provision for the following:

8 \* \* \*

9 (1)(a)

10 \* \* \*

11 (ii) Except as provided in Subitem (cc) of this Item, the requirements of Item  
12 (i) of this Subparagraph shall not apply to any charter school which is established  
13 with the educational mission of meeting the needs of ~~pupils~~ students who are the  
14 dependent children of military personnel provided that all of the following conditions  
15 are met:

16 \* \* \*

17 (bb) All dependent children of military personnel who seek admission to the  
18 school and who are ~~at risk~~ economically disadvantaged as defined in R.S.  
19 17:3973~~(1)~~(4) are admitted to the school.

20 (cc) In the enrollment of ~~pupils~~ students from the general population in the  
21 community where the charter school is located who are not dependent children of  
22 military personnel, the charter school shall comply with the provisions of Item (i) of  
23 this Subparagraph, except that the requirements contained therein shall apply to and  
24 be based upon only such general population ~~pupils~~ students admitted and shall be  
25 based on data available as of December first of each year.

26 \* \* \*

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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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HB 848 Original

2018 Regular Session

Leopold

**Abstract:** Provides relative to student eligibility for free and reduced price meals as included in the definition of economically disadvantaged students applicable to all charter schools. Provides relative to requirements for the enrollment of economically disadvantaged students and other students in charter schools for the dependent children of military personnel.

Present law defines an economically disadvantaged student for purposes of the charter school law as a student who meets any of the following characteristics:

- (1) Is eligible for La.'s food assistance program for low-income families.
- (2) Is eligible for La.'s disaster food assistance program.
- (3) Is eligible for La.'s program for assistance to needy families with children to assist parents in becoming self-sufficient.
- (4) Is eligible for La.'s healthcare program for families and individuals with limited financial resources.
- (5) Is eligible for reduced price meals based on the latest available data.
- (6) Is an English Language Learner.
- (7) Is identified as homeless or migrant pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act and the Migrant Education Program within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- (8) Is incarcerated with the office of juvenile justice or in an adult facility.
- (9) Has been placed into the custody of the state.

Proposed law changes characteristic (5) to mean a student who is eligible to participate in the federal free or reduced price meals program but is not necessarily participating in the program. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law, relative to a charter school for the dependent children of military personnel, requires such school to enroll a specified percentage of students from the general population in the community where the charter school is located who are not dependent children of military personnel and who are economically disadvantaged and students with exceptionalities (excluding gifted or talented). Provides that such determinations are based on the Oct. 1st student membership count. Proposed law provides that such determinations shall be based on data available as of Dec. 1st of each year. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3973(4)(e) and 3991(B)(1)(a)(ii)(intro. para.), (bb), and (cc))