

SENATE BILL NO. 125

BY SENATORS NEVERS, APPEL, GUILLORY, LAFLEUR, THOMPSON,
WALSWORTH AND WHITE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:185.4 and to enact R.S. 17:185.5 and 185.6 and R.S.
3 36:651(G)(4), relative to agricultural education; to create the Agricultural Education
4 Commission and provide for its membership, compensation, duties, staffing, and
5 meetings; to provide for the creation of an agricultural education immersion pilot
6 program; to provide relative to funding and effectiveness; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:185.4 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:185.5 and
10 185.6 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §185.4. **Agricultural Education Commission**

12 **A. The Agricultural Education Commission is hereby created in the**
13 **Department of Education for the purpose of providing guidance and advice to**
14 **the state superintendent of education and the State Board of Elementary and**
15 **Secondary Education regarding agricultural education programs and activities**
16 **in elementary and secondary schools.**

17 **B. The commission shall be composed of the following members:**

18 **(1) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.**

19 **(2) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.**

20 **(3) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College**
21 **System, or his designee.**

22 **(4) The vice president for agriculture for the Louisiana State University**
23 **System, or his designee.**

24 **(5) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center, or**
25 **his designee.**

1 (6) The director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, or his
2 designee.

3 (7) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry,
4 or his designee.

5 (8) The president of the Louisiana Agriscience Teachers Association, or
6 his designee.

7 (9) The president of the Louisiana FFA.

8 (10) The chairman of the board of trustees for the Louisiana 4-H
9 Foundation, or his designee.

10 (11) The state executive director of the Louisiana FFA, or his designee.

11 (12) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, or his
12 designee.

13 (13) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his
14 designee.

15 (14) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or
16 his designee.

17 (15) The president of the Louisiana Association for Business and
18 Industry, or his designee.

19 (16) The president of the Louisiana Association of Educators, or his
20 designee.

21 (17) The president of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, or
22 his designee.

23 B. Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the
24 appointing authority and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original
25 appointment.

26 C. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed
27 for expenses as provided by the appointing authority.

28 D.(1) The state superintendent of education shall call the first meeting
29 of the commission no later than September 1, 2014, and a chairman shall be
30 elected from among the membership at such meeting.

1 (2) The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman, but not
2 less than once quarterly.

3 (3) The Department of Education shall provide staff support to assist the
4 commission in performing its duties and responsibilities.

5 E. The commission shall:

6 (1) Assist the state superintendent of education in the ongoing evaluation
7 of agricultural education programs in elementary and secondary schools.

8 (2) Review the state action plan for agricultural education and make
9 recommendations to the state board regarding changes in policy or curricula
10 deemed necessary to ensure that the state's agricultural education programs
11 and initiatives are responsive to the needs of students and the agricultural
12 community.

13 (3) Continually review the state's agricultural education delivery system
14 and provide advice and guidance to the state superintendent of education
15 regarding content standards and curricula, development of agriculture-related
16 industry-based certifications, professional development opportunities for
17 agricultural educators, and other strategies designed to promote agricultural
18 literacy and student awareness of the wide array of educational and career
19 opportunities in agriculture-related fields.

20 (4) Assist in the development of partnerships and alliances with
21 agriculture-related industries and other stakeholders.

22 (5) Provide advice and support in the development and creation of
23 agriculture immersion programs in elementary and secondary schools that
24 allow students to develop an understanding of the importance of agriculture and
25 agriculture-related fields and occupations to the state, the nation, and the world.

26 §185.5. Agricultural Education Immersion Program; pilot

27 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall create
28 a pilot program to provide for the establishment of agricultural education
29 immersion programs that provide students with a high-quality educational
30 program that integrates agriculture-related instruction throughout all

1 disciplines included in the curriculum.

2 B. Agricultural immersion programs created pursuant to this Section
3 shall:

4 (1) Provide an articulated, sequentially-structured, total agricultural
5 education program that prepares students for entrance into a postsecondary
6 educational program or other certification that leads to a career.

7 (2) Provide each student with an academically rigorous curriculum,
8 work-based learning experiences, and student leadership opportunities within
9 an agricultural context.

10 (3) Integrate agriculture throughout the curriculum in a systematic
11 manner that prepares students for successful careers in a wide array of
12 agriculture-related industries and occupations, including food and crop science,
13 soil science, animal science, fiber production, farm production, renewable
14 resources, agricultural research, and agribusiness management and marketing.

15 (4) Provide dual-enrollment opportunities that allow students to earn
16 college credit hours that can be transferred to a postsecondary institution and
17 industry-based certifications that qualify a student for employment upon
18 graduation from high school.

19 §185.6. Effectiveness

20 The state action plan agricultural education immersion pilot program
21 established pursuant to this Subpart shall be implemented upon the appropriation of
22 funds as expeditiously as possible through any source of funding made available
23 for this purpose.

24 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(G)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

25 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
26 of Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department
27 of Education

28 * * *

29 G. The following agencies, as defined by R.S. 36:3, are transferred to and
30 hereafter shall be within the Department of Education as provided in Part III of

1 Chapter 22 of this Title:

2 * * *

3 **(4) The Agricultural Education Commission (R.S. 17:185.4).**

4 * * *

5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
9 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____