

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 553

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

SCHOOLS. Requires BESE to develop an early high school graduation policy. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:7(29), relative to the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State  
3 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to require the board to develop and  
4 adopt an early high school graduation policy; to provide relative to implementation  
5 of such policy by local school boards; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(29) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

9 In addition to the authorities granted by R.S. 17:6 and any powers, duties, and  
10 responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

11 \* \* \*

12 **(29)(a) By the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, develop and adopt**  
13 **a policy whereby students shall be allowed to accelerate their academic**  
14 **progress, complete all high school graduation requirements established by the**  
15 **board, and receive a high school diploma in less than four years.**

16 **(b) Such policy shall encourage and support students who seek early**  
17 **graduation from high school and provide for mechanisms to facilitate**

1           **implementation of this early high school graduation policy by local public**  
 2           **schools and school systems which may include flexible course scheduling and**  
 3           **use of distance learning, online courses, Advanced Placement, International**  
 4           **Baccalaureate, and other accelerated learning programs and examinations.**

5           **(c) Each city, parish, and other local public school board shall fully**  
 6           **implement the provisions of the early high school graduation policy adopted by**  
 7           **the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and shall include such**  
 8           **in its pupil progression plan.**

9           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 10          signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 11          by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 12          vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 13          effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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#### DIGEST

Proposed law requires BESE, by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, to develop and adopt a policy whereby students will be allowed to accelerate their academic progress, complete all high school graduation requirements, and receive a high school diploma in less than four years.

Provides that such policy will encourage and support students who seek early graduation from high school and provide for mechanisms to facilitate implementation of this early high school graduation policy by local public schools and school systems which may include flexible course scheduling and use of distance learning, online courses, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other accelerated learning programs and examinations.

Requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to fully implement the provisions of the early high school graduation policy adopted by BESE and to include such in its pupil progression plan.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:7(29))