

SENATE BILL NO. 553

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

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

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

26 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
27 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
3 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____