

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 666

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

FUNDS/FUNDING. Provides relative to charter school funding. (7/1/14)

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(b)(ii) and (2)(a), relative to charter school  
3 funding; to provide relative to the use of certain local revenues for computing and  
4 allocating the per pupil amount provided to all charter schools; to provide  
5 exceptions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.  
6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:  
7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(b)(ii) and (2)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted  
8 to read as follows:  
9 §3995. Charter school funding  
10 A.(1) For the purpose of funding, a Type 1, Type 3, Type 3B, and Type 4  
11 charter school shall be considered an approved public school of the local school  
12 board entering into the charter agreement and shall receive a per pupil amount each  
13 year from the local school board based on the October first membership count of the  
14 charter school. Type 1B and Type 2 charter schools shall receive a per pupil amount  
15 each year authorized by the state board each year as provided in the minimum  
16 foundation program approved formula. The per pupil amount provided to a Type 1,  
17 1B, 2, 3, 3B, or 4 charter school shall be computed annually and shall be equal to no

1 less than the per pupil amount received by the school district in which the charter  
2 school is located from the following sources based on the district's October first  
3 membership count:

4 \* \* \*

5 (b)(i) Local revenues received during the prior year by the school district  
6 from the following sources:

7 \* \* \*

8 (ii) For the purposes of this Subparagraph, local revenues shall exclude any  
9 portion which has been specifically dedicated by the legislature, or by voter  
10 approval, to capital outlay or debt service.

11 \* \* \*

12 (2)(a) Initial allocation of the per pupil amount required in Paragraph (1) of  
13 this Subsection shall be based on estimates provided by the state Department of  
14 Education using the most recent projected prior year local revenue data and projected  
15 pupil counts available. Allocations shall be adjusted during the year to reflect actual  
16 pupil counts and actual prior year local revenue collections. **In parishes with a  
17 population between two hundred twenty thousand and two hundred twenty-five  
18 thousand according the latest federal decennial census, allocations to charter  
19 schools shall be funded solely from state minimum foundation program funds  
20 that would otherwise be received by the local school board.**

21 \* \* \*

22 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014; if  
23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
24 effective on July 1, 2014, or on the day following such approval by the legislature,  
25 whichever is later.

---

The original instrument was prepared by Martha Hess. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

---

### DIGEST

Cortez (SB 666)

Present law provides that for the purpose of funding, a Type 1, Type 3, Type 3B, and Type 4 charter school shall be considered an approved public school of the local school board entering into the charter agreement and shall receive a per pupil amount each year from the local school board based on the October first membership count of the charter school. The per pupil amount provided to a Type 1, 1B, 2, 3, 3B, or 4 charter school shall be computed annually and shall be equal to no less than the per pupil amount received by the school district in which the charter school is located from the following sources based on the district's October first membership count:

- (1) The state-funded per pupil allocation received by the district pursuant to the most recent legislatively approved minimum foundation program formula resolution.
- (2) Local revenues received during the prior year by the school district from the following sources:
  - (a) Sales and use taxes, less any collection fee paid by the school district.
  - (b) Ad valorem taxes, less any collection fee paid by the school district.
  - (c) Earnings from sixteenth section lands owned by the school district.

Present law provides that local revenues shall exclude any portion which has been specifically dedicated by the legislature, or by voter approval, to capital outlay or debt service. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides the initial allocation to a charter school of the per pupil amount based on estimates of all monies available to the local school board.

Proposed law provides that in parishes having a population between 220,000 and 225,000 the allocations to charter schools are to be funded solely from the state portion of MFP funds.

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(b)(ii) and (2)(a))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Deletes exclusion of local revenues dedicated to teacher and school employee salaries and benefits or expenses for maintaining and repairing schools from the definition of "local revenues" for charter school funding purposes.
2. Deletes requirement that a charter school's per pupil allocation be proportionally reduced for its share of the local school board's required UAL payment to TRSL.

3. Restores present law provisions restricting exclusion of local revenues dedicated to capital outlay or debt service to charter schools housed in facilities provided by the local school district.
4. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Provides for allocations of only state MFP funds to charter schools in parishes having a population between 220,000 and 225,000.