

SENATE BILL NO. 712

BY SENATORS LAFLEUR, ALLAIN, CORTEZ, GUILLORY, JOHNS, MILLS, MORRISH AND PERRY AND REPRESENTATIVES ARMES, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, STUART BISHOP, CHAMPAGNE, DANAHAAY, EDWARDS, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRISON, HAZEL, HENSGENS, HUVAL, JOHNSON, JONES, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, MONTOUCET, ORTEGO, PIERRE, PRICE, RICHARD, ROBIDEAUX, ST. GERMAIN, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY AND WILLMOTT

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part II-C of Chapter 8 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 17:1970.31 through 1970.33, relative to establishment of an
4 international language immersion school exploratory committee; to provide relative
5 to the development of an implementation plan for an international school; to provide
6 for membership, duties and functions of such committee; to provide for a report; and
7 to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Part II-C of Chapter 8 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
10 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:1970.31 through 1970.33, is hereby enacted to read as
11 follows:

12 PART II-C. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN LAFAYETTE

13 §1970.31. Legislative intent

14 A. It is the intent of the legislature to establish a world language
15 immersion school for the express purpose of providing an expansive and
16 challenging educational experience for the students of this state, thereby
17 enabling such students to reach their full potential and be productive citizens.

18 B. The legislature finds that the development of a world language skills
19 program and cultural expertise are crucial in addressing the economic
20 challenges facing the state and nation in the global marketplace. Professions

1 including but not limited to law, health care, education, tourism, hospitality,
2 agriculture, and oil and gas all require an international dimension that reflects
3 the ever-changing world environment and Louisiana's increasingly diverse
4 population.

5 C. The legislature recognizes that sustained, intensive, continuous
6 sequences of second language study results in the following benefits:

7 (1) Increases awareness of and appreciation for other cultures and
8 people.

9 (2) Develops a high proficiency in a second or third target language other
10 than English.

11 (3) Enhances problem-solving capabilities.

12 (4) Improves memory and listening skills, and has a positive effect on
13 intellectual growth.

14 (5) Enhances understanding of an individual's primary language.

15 (6) Better prepares students for the twenty-first century job market.

16 (7) Preserves the heritage language of Acadians and the related economic
17 value of the Cajun Creole culture in Louisiana.

18 §1970.32. International school in Lafayette; exploratory committee; creation;
19 membership; terms; duties and functions; voting; compensation

20 A. There is hereby created an exploratory committee, hereinafter
21 referred to as "committee", to develop a plan regarding the creation and
22 establishment of an international language immersion school at the University
23 of Louisiana at Lafayette. The membership of the committee shall be as follows:

24 (1) The executive director of the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child
25 Development and Lifelong Learning, or his designee.

26 (2) The executive director of Le Centre International De Lafayette, or his
27 designee.

28 (3) One member to represent the French Consulate, appointed by the
29 Consulate General of France in New Orleans, who shall serve as an ex officio
30 member.

1 (4) Two members of the Council for the Development of French in
2 Louisiana, appointed by the chairman thereof.

3 (5) The city-parish president of Lafayette Parish, or his designee.

4 (6) The superintendent of schools for the Lafayette Parish School System,
5 or his designee.

6 (7) One member to represent the Greater Lafayette Chamber of
7 Commerce, appointed by the president of the chamber.

8 (8) One member of the Senate whose district is located in Lafayette
9 Parish.

10 (9) Two members of the House of Representatives whose districts are
11 located in Lafayette Parish.

12 (10) A member of the Senate who is a member of the Acadiana
13 delegation and whose district does not include Lafayette Parish, appointed by
14 the president of the Senate.

15 (11) A member of the House of Representatives who is a member of the
16 Acadiana delegation and whose district does not include Lafayette Parish,
17 appointed by the speaker of the House.

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

19 (13) The president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, or his
20 designee.

21 (14) The president of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority,
22 or his designee.

23 B. The committee shall:

24 (1) Consider the location, structure, management, and operation of an
25 international language immersion school.

26 (2) Research potential agreements, in accordance with applicable law,
27 with other public agencies with respect to developing partnerships and
28 cooperative enterprises and undertakings related to or associated with an
29 educational purpose or educational program affecting education at the school.

30 (3) Provide for the collaboration and partnership with similarly designed

1 schools.

2 (4) Determine the curriculum to be offered at the school, including
 3 French as the primary immersion language and consider the addition of other
 4 languages to the curriculum, including but not limited to Spanish and Mandarin
 5 Chinese.

6 (5) Establish criteria to be used in determining eligibility of students for
 7 enrollment.

8 (6) Determine the number of students to be served by the school.

9 (7) Determine the number and type of faculty and staff positions
 10 necessary for the efficient operation of the school.

11 (8) Determine the budget necessary for the operation of the school.

12 (9) Determine the feasibility of opening the school by the beginning of the
 13 2014-2015 school year.

14 (10) Provide for the consideration of any other item or requirement that
 15 may be necessary to establish an international language immersion school.

16 C. Nine members of the committee shall constitute a quorum and all
 17 official action of the committee shall require the favorable vote of a majority of
 18 those members present and voting. All members of the committee, including ex
 19 officio members, shall be voting members.

20 D. Members of the committee shall serve until such time as the school is
 21 established and begins operation.

22 E. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

23 §1970.33. Report

24 The committee shall submit a written report and implementation plan
 25 for the establishment of an international language immersion school to the
 26 Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on Education not later
 27 than March 31, 2013.

28 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 30 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____