

Regular Session, 2008

ACT No. 380

HOUSE BILL NO. 1256

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:53, relative to city, parish, and other local public school board
3 members; to provide that school board members shall receive training and instruction
4 annually; to require that a certain minimum number of hours focus on certain topics
5 for school board members in certain districts; to provide for effectiveness; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:53 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §53. School board members; training required

10 A. Each member of a city, ~~and parish,~~ and other local public school board
11 shall receive a minimum of ~~six~~ four hours of training and instruction annually in the
12 school laws of this state, in the laws governing the powers, duties, and
13 responsibilities of city, ~~and parish,~~ and other local public school boards, and in
14 educational trends, research, and policy. In a city, parish, or other local public
15 school district that has one or more schools identified as an academically
16 unacceptable school or a school in need of academic assistance as defined by the
17 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to policies developed
18 and adopted by the board for implementation of the school and district accountability
19 system, at least two of such hours shall focus on the improvement of schools
20 identified as failing schools as defined by the state board pursuant to such policies.
21 The remaining hours shall focus on education policy issues, including but not limited
22 to literacy and numeracy, leadership development, dropout prevention, career and

1 technical education, redesigning high schools, early childhood education, school
2 discipline, and harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Training shall also include
3 instruction relative to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:4.1 et seq.,
4 and the Public Bid Law, Chapter 10 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
5 1950. Such instruction may be received from ~~an institution of higher a~~
6 postsecondary education institution in this state, from instruction sponsored by the
7 state Department of Education, or by from an in-service training program conducted
8 by a city, ~~or parish, or other local public~~ school board central office or the Louisiana
9 School Boards Association provided that the instruction and the method for
10 demonstrating attendance are pre-approved by the Louisiana School Boards
11 Association. Each school board member's attendance must be reported by the
12 instructor to the Louisiana School Boards Association.

13 B. The ~~higher~~ postsecondary education institution, the state Department of
14 Education, a ~~the city or parish~~ school board central office, or the Louisiana School
15 Boards Association, ~~as the case may be,~~ that provides such instruction shall issue a
16 certificate of completion to each ~~city or parish~~ school board member who completes
17 the instruction as required by this Section, and a copy of such certificate shall be
18 entered into the minutes of the ~~city or parish~~ school board on which such member
19 serves. The superintendent of the school system on which school board the member
20 serves shall be responsible for verifying that the instruction meets the requirements
21 of this Section. ~~Upon completion of such instruction, it shall not be necessary for a~~
22 ~~member of a city or parish school board to receive additional instruction as required~~
23 ~~by this Section upon being reelected to the board.~~

24 C. ~~The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to any member of a city~~
25 ~~or parish school board taking office in 1999 or thereafter~~ The Louisiana School
26 Boards Association shall post on its web site regularly updated information relative
27 to the number and subject matter of training hours completed by each school board
28 member pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective January 1, 2009.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____