

Regular Session, 2010

ACT No. 705

HOUSE BILL NO. 488

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON, CARTER, GISCLAIR, HARDY, AND ST.
GERMAIN

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:53, relative to training and instruction of school board
3 members; to require each member of a local public school board to receive certain
4 training; to authorize certain training during a member's first year of service; to
5 provide for the designation of Distinguished School Board Member for school board
6 members completing certain training; to require certain dissemination of information
7 about training completed by school board members; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

11 §53. School board members; training required

12 A.(1) Each member of a city, parish, and other local public school board
13 shall receive a minimum of sixteen hours of training and instruction during his first
14 year of service on the board in order to receive the designation of "Distinguished
15 School Board Member" pursuant to Paragraph (B)(3) of this Section.

16 (2) Except as provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, each
17 member of a city, parish, and other local public school board shall receive a
18 minimum of ~~four~~ six hours of training and instruction annually.

19 (3) The training and instruction referred to in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this
20 Subsection shall be in the school laws of this state, in the laws governing the powers,
21 duties, and responsibilities of city, parish, and other local public school boards, and
22 in educational trends, research, and policy. ~~In a city, parish, or other local public~~
23 ~~school district that has one or more schools identified as an academically~~

1 ~~unacceptable school or a school in need of academic assistance as defined by the~~
2 ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to policies developed~~
3 ~~and adopted by the board for implementation of the school and district accountability~~
4 ~~system, at least two of such hours shall focus on the improvement of schools~~
5 ~~identified as failing schools as defined by the state board pursuant to such policies.~~
6 ~~The remaining hours shall focus on~~ Such training and instruction shall also include
7 education policy issues, including but not limited to the minimum foundation
8 program and formula, literacy and numeracy, leadership development, dropout
9 prevention, career and technical education, redesigning high schools, early childhood
10 education, school discipline, and harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Training
11 shall also include instruction relative to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law,
12 R.S. 42:4.1 et seq., and the Public Bid Law, Chapter 10 of Title 38 of the Louisiana
13 Revised Statutes of 1950.

14 (4) In a city, parish, or other local public school district that has one or more
15 schools identified as academically unacceptable or in need of academic assistance
16 as defined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to
17 policies developed and adopted by the board for implementation of the school and
18 district accountability system, at least two of the hours referred to in Paragraphs (1)
19 and (2) of this Subsection shall focus on the improvement of schools identified as
20 failing schools as defined by the state board pursuant to such policies.

21 B.(1) Such instruction may be received from a postsecondary education
22 institution in this state, from instruction sponsored by the state Department of
23 Education, or from an in-service training program conducted by a city, parish, or
24 other local public school board central office or the Louisiana School Boards
25 Association provided that the instruction and the method for demonstrating
26 attendance are pre-approved by the Louisiana School Boards Association. Each
27 school board member's attendance must be reported by the instructor to the
28 Louisiana School Boards Association.

29 ~~B: (2)~~ The postsecondary education institution, the state Department of
30 Education, the school board central office, or the Louisiana School Boards

1 Association that provides such instruction shall issue a certificate of completion
2 annually to each school board member who completes the instruction required by
3 this Section, and a copy of such certificate shall be entered into the minutes of the
4 school board on which such member serves. The superintendent of the school
5 system on which school board the member serves shall be responsible for verifying
6 that the instruction meets the requirements of this Section.

7 (3) A school board member who has received a certificate of completion for
8 the initial sixteen hours of training and instruction required by Paragraph (A)(1) of
9 this Section and has also received an annual certificate of completion of the training
10 required by Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section for the subsequent three consecutive
11 years shall receive the designation of "Distinguished School Board Member" and the
12 State Department of Education shall issue each such member an appropriate
13 certificate attesting to such designation. A school board member in office on January
14 1, 2011, who has prior service on the board may receive the designation if he
15 receives a certificate of completion of sixteen hours of training during 2011 and
16 receives a certificate of completion of the required training for the subsequent three
17 consecutive years.

18 C.(1) The Louisiana School Boards Association shall post on its ~~web site~~
19 website regularly updated information relative to the number and subject matter of
20 training hours completed by each school board member pursuant to the provisions
21 of this Section.

22 (2) At least annually, the superintendent of the school system on which
23 school board the member serves shall transmit to the newspaper which is the official
24 journal of the school board a press release detailing the information for his school
25 board that is posted on the Louisiana School Boards Association website pursuant
26 to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and shall also include in such press release
27 information concerning each school board member who has been designated a
28 "Distinguished School Board Member" pursuant to Paragraph (B)(3) of this Section.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2011.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____