

SENATE BILL NO. 104

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:273.2, relative to the teaching of foreign languages in elementary and secondary schools; to provide with respect to a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs; to provide for minimum criteria; to provide for rules; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:273.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§273.2. Foreign language immersion programs; certification process; criteria

A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop and implement a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs as a means to provide statewide standards for foreign language immersion programs and assist and support schools and school districts in establishing and maintaining high quality, highly effective foreign language immersion programs.

B.(1) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year and annually thereafter, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall designate any foreign language immersion program that consistently meets the criteria listed below as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program".

(a) Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily instruction in the immersion language.

(b) High quality immersion language teaching time.

(c) Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.

(d) Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area teaching time.

(e) Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the immersion language.

1 (f) Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion
2 teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.

3 (g) Provision of student remediation, as needed, in the immersion
4 language.

5 (h) Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary,
6 secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.

7 (i) Visibility and recognition of the foreign language immersion program
8 throughout the school.

9 (j) Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the foreign
10 language immersion program.

11 (2) Notice of receipt of State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education designation as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program"
13 shall be included on the school's annual report card compiled by the
14 Department of Education and in the academic records of each student enrolled
15 in the program.

16 C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
17 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this Section in accordance with
18 the Administrative Procedure Act.

19 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
20 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
21 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
22 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
23 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____