

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 446

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIGUEZ AND STUART BISHOP

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

CURRICULA: Authorizes firearm accident prevention and safety instruction for elementary school students

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:282.5, relative to permitted courses of study; to authorize each city, parish,  
3 and other local public school board to provide classroom instruction regarding  
4 firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:282.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §282.5. Firearm accident prevention and safety education; authorized instruction

9 Each city, parish, and other local public school board may provide age and  
10 grade appropriate classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and  
11 safety to elementary school students. Such instruction shall be integrated into an  
12 existing course of study, and the purpose of such instruction shall be to promote the  
13 protection and safety of children. Furthermore, such instruction shall adopt or be  
14 based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program, an accident prevention program  
15 developed by the National Rifle Association, or a substantially similar program  
16 designed to promote firearm accident prevention and safety. Such instruction shall  
17 not include the use of firearms and shall not include the expression of value  
18 judgments about the use of firearms by teachers or school personnel. The school  
19 board shall determine the timing and duration of such instruction.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 446 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Miguez

**Abstract:** Authorizes each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students.

Present law provides with respect to permitted courses of study for elementary and secondary school students.

Proposed law permits each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide age and grade appropriate classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students. Requires that such instruction be integrated into an existing course of study, and specifies that the purpose of such instruction shall be to promote the protection and safety of children. Provides that such instruction shall adopt or be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program developed by the National Rifle Assoc. or a substantially similar program designed to promote firearm accident prevention and safety. Prohibits such instruction from including the use of firearms and from including the expression of value judgments about the use of firearms by teachers or school personnel. Requires the school board to determine the timing and duration of the instruction.

(Adds R.S. 17:282.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Authorize instead of requiring firearm accident prevention and safety instruction in elementary schools.
2. Change the content of the instruction from "firearm familiarity and safety" to "firearm accident prevention and safety".
3. Provide that the instruction may adopt or be based on the Eddie Eagle program instead of requiring that it do so.
4. Add requirement that the school board determine the timing and duration of the instruction.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require instead of authorizing that such instruction be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program, but authorize school boards to satisfy the requirement by adopting a substantially similar program designed to promote firearm accident prevention or safety.
2. Add prohibition on such instruction including the use of firearms and from including the expression of value judgments.