

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 227 (HB 556)

2017 Regular Session

Pearson

Existing law provides sick leave for school bus operators, members of the teaching staff of public schools, and other public school employees each as defined in existing law. Prior law provided sick leave for all three groups in cases of injury (or incapacitation for school bus operators) while acting in their official capacity as a result of assault or battery by any student or person. New law deletes prior law provisions for sick leave for all three groups in cases of injury or incapacitation; provides for sick leave only if the employee is disabled.

Existing law, for all three groups, requires the employee to present a certificate from a physician certifying the disability. Existing law requires members of the teaching staff to provide further certification by a physician from a list established by the local medical society if the school board questions the validity of the physician certification submitted by the member, and provides that the board shall pay the costs associated with such certification. Provides that the opinion of the third physician (if one is used) shall be determinative of the issue.

New law makes same requirements for further certification applicable to school bus operators and other school employees. New law, for all three groups, provides that the third physician (if one is used) shall be a physician from a list established by the local or state medical society.

New law prohibits local school boards from reducing the pay or accrued sick leave of a school bus operator, member of the teaching staff, or other school employee who is absent from his duties to seek medical attention or treatment as a result of an injury as provided in existing law and new law. Provides that if the person's physician determines that he is able to return to active service in the same capacity with restrictions and the school board does not allow him to return subject to those restrictions, then his leave pursuant to existing law shall be granted or continued.

Existing law (R.S. 17:500, 1201(A), and 1206) allows a minimum of 10 days absence per school year for illness or other emergencies without loss of pay for school bus operators, teaching staff, and other school employees. Allows any unused leave to be accumulated from year to year and allows school boards to grant additional sick leave with or without loss of pay.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Amends R.S. 17:500.1, 1201(C)(1)(b), and 1206.1; Adds R.S. 17:1200(C))