

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 338

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

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

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to bullying and school safety policies of public school governing authorities

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b)(introductory paragraph) and to enact R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b)(vi), (vii), and (viii) and 416.14, relative to public elementary and secondary school policies on bullying, harassment, and discrimination; to provide relative to certain requirements for school employees, school governing authorities, and schools; to provide relative to school employee training with respect to bullying; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b)(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b)(vi), (vii), and (viii) and 416.14 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§416.13. Student code of conduct; requirement; bullying; prohibition; notice; reporting; accountability

\* \* \*

B. Bullying Policy.

\* \* \*

(2) The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school shall:

\* \* \*

1 (b) Create a program to provide a minimum of four hours of training for new  
2 employees who have contact with students and two hours of training each year for  
3 all school employees who have contact with students, including school bus operators,  
4 with respect to bullying. The training shall specifically include the following:

5 \* \* \*

6 (vi) How to encourage student and family engagement, including  
7 establishing communication channels and supporting parental involvement  
8 opportunities.

9 (vii) Information relative to prohibited discrimination on the basis of race,  
10 nationality, gender, English Language Learner status, or disability status.

11 (viii) Issues pertaining to faculty and staff diversity.

12 \* \* \*

13 §416.14. Safe schools policy

14 A. The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school  
15 shall adopt a safe schools policy for the students, teachers, and staff of all schools  
16 under its jurisdiction.

17 B. At a minimum, the policy shall ensure that all schools take reasonable  
18 steps to prevent and eliminate discrimination by:

19 (1) Providing a safe, positive, supportive, and respectful environment.

20 (2) Respecting the privacy of students.

21 (3) Giving proper consideration to the rules and policies of the school and  
22 the impact of those rules and policies on participation in school-sanctioned activities  
23 including but not limited to sports.

24 C. The policy shall:

25 (1) Make a commitment to and identify actions that schools will take to  
26 create a safe and inclusive school environment for minorities and female students.

27 (2) Identify the intended outcomes of such actions and commitment.

28 (3) Be made publicly available.

- 1                    D. The policy shall not deter students from embracing culture and diversity,  
2                    including the expression of culture through hair and hair styles.
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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 338 Original

2019 Regular Session

Smith

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the bullying of students in public elementary and secondary schools.

Present law requires each public school governing authority to provide training each year for all school employees with respect to bullying.

Proposed law retains present law and expands the topics covered by the training program to include the following matters:

- (1) Student and family engagement.
- (2) Discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, gender, English Language Learner status, or disability status.
- (3) Faculty and staff diversity.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to establish and enforce a safe schools policy. Such policy shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) Preventing and eliminating discrimination.
- (2) Fostering inclusive environment for minorities and female students.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b)(vi), (vii), and (viii) and 416.14)