

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 369

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS

EDUCATION: Requires public school governing authorities and public schools to post on their websites laws pertaining to parental access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill of Rights

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:354 and 3996(B)(67) and (68), relative to education; to require public  
3 school governing authorities and public schools to post information on their websites  
4 relative to laws granting parents access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill  
5 of Rights for Public Schools; to apply the law relative to parental access to  
6 instructional materials to charter schools; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:354 and 3996(B)(67) and (68) are hereby enacted to read as  
9 follows:

10 §354. Parental access to instructional materials and the Parents' Bill of Rights for  
11 Public Schools; posting of laws and information

12 A. Each public school governing authority and each public school shall post  
13 on its website information explaining the rights that parents have relative to  
14 accessing the instructional materials used in the education of their child and other  
15 rights pertaining to their child's education. The information shall include an easily  
16 understandable summary and the full text and legal citation of both of the following  
17 provisions:

18 (1) R.S. 17:355, which provides relative to parental access to instructional  
19 materials.

1                   (2) R.S. 17:406.9, which provides for the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public  
2                   Schools.

3                   B. The information shall be posted prominently in a location that is readily  
4                   accessible from the main landing page of the website.

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6                   §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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8                   B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
9                   except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
10                  charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
11                  Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
12                  exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
13                  applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
14                  the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

15   \*       \*       \*

16                   (67) Parental access to instructional materials, R.S. 17:355.

17                   (68) Posting of information relative to parental rights, R.S. 17:354.

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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 369 Original

2022 Regular Session

Harris

**Abstract:** Requires public school governing authorities and schools to post information on their websites relative to the laws providing for parents' rights with respect to their children's education.

Proposed law requires public school governing authorities and schools to post an easily understandable summary and the full text and legal citation of the following provisions of present law relative to parental access to instructional materials and other parental rights relative to their children's education:

- (1) Present law (R.S. 17:355), which provides that the parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school is entitled to access instructional materials, including reviewing:

- (a) Instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's child, defined as content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to a student and includes any nonsecure test, nonsecure assessment, or survey administered to a student as well as books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material, information, or services, or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process.
  - (b) Any survey before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student, defined as any evaluative instrument or questionnaire that is not an assessment of academic knowledge, skills, or abilities, administered as part of a state, national, or international assessment or by itself.
- (2) Present law (R.S. 17:406.9), which, in the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools, provides that parents of public school children who have not reached the age of majority shall have all of the following rights:
- (a) To examine the textbooks, curriculum, and supplemental material used in their child's classroom.
  - (b) To inspect their child's school records and to receive a copy of their child's records within ten business days of submitting a written request, either electronically or on paper.
  - (c) To be notified when medical services are being offered to their child, except where emergency medical treatment is required. In cases where emergency medical treatment is required, the parent shall be notified as soon as practicable after the treatment is rendered.
  - (d) To be notified if a criminal action is deemed to have been committed against their child or by their child.
  - (e) To be notified if law enforcement personnel question their child, except in cases where the parent has been accused of abusing or neglecting the child.
  - (f) To be notified if their child is taken or removed from the school campus without parental permission.
  - (g) That the school shall not discriminate against their child based upon the sincerely held religious beliefs of the child's family.
  - (h) To receive written notice and the option to opt their child out of any surveys that include questions about any of the following:
    - (i) The student's sexual experiences or attractions.
    - (ii) The student's family beliefs, morality, religion, or political affiliations.
    - (iii) Any mental health or psychological problems of the student or a family member.
  - (i) To receive written notice and have the option to opt their child out of instruction on topics associated with sexual activity.

- (j) To receive from the school the annual school calendar, no later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the school year, and to be notified in writing as soon as feasible of any revisions to such calendar. Such calendar shall be posted to the school's website and shall include, at a minimum, student attendance days and any event that requires parent or student attendance outside of normal school days or hours.
- (k) To receive in writing each year or to view on the school's website a comprehensive listing of any required fee and its purpose and use and a description of how economic hardships may be addressed.
- (l) To receive in writing each year or to view on the school's website a description of the school's required uniform for students.
- (m) To be informed if their child's academic performance is such that it could threaten the child's ability to be promoted to the next grade level and to be offered an in-person meeting with the child's classroom teacher and school leader to discuss any resources or strategies available to support and encourage the child's academic improvement.

Present law applies present law (R.S. 17:406.9) relative to the Parents' Bill of Rights to charter schools. Proposed law additionally applies present law (R.S. 17:355) relative to parental access to instructional materials to charter schools. Proposed law relative to sharing information about such present law on websites is applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:354 and 3996(B)(67) and (68))