

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 234

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides for medical school students' grading. (2/3-CA7s2.1(A))
(7/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3384, relative to postsecondary education institutions; to require a letter-
3 based grading scale for medical doctorate degrees; to provide for an effective date;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:3384 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§3384. Medical school grading scale**

8 **A. Beginning August 1, 2027, all public postsecondary education**
9 **institutions offering medical doctorate degrees shall adopt policies ensuring that**
10 **all curriculum coursework offered for a medical degree or certificate assesses**
11 **a student's performance on the assigned coursework using a tiered grading**
12 **system of High-Pass (HP), Pass (P), Low-Pass, or Fail (F), or another tiered**
13 **grading system with at least four such designations.**

14 **B. The Board of Regents shall enforce this Section and is hereby**
15 **authorized to adopt policies providing for civil penalties for violations of**
16 **Subsection A of this Section.**

17 **C. If any provision of this Section or the application thereof is held**

1 **invalid as to any person or circumstance, such invalidity shall not affect other**
 2 **provisions or applications of this Section which can be given effect without the**
 3 **invalid provisions or applications.**

4 Section 2. This Act shall be known as the "Medical School Letter Grade Act".

5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026. If vetoed by the governor
 6 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day
 7 following such approval by the legislature or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 234 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Pressly

Proposed law requires public postsecondary education institutions that offer medical doctorate degrees to adopt policies that ensure any curriculum coursework offered for a medical degree or certificate assesses a student's performance on the assigned coursework using a tiered grading system of High-Pass, Pass, Low-Pass or Fail, or another tiered grading system with at least four such designations.

Proposed law provides that policies must be adopted beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

Proposed law authorizes the Bd. of Regents to adopt policies that provide for civil penalties for violations to proposed law.

Proposed law provides for a severability clause.

Proposed law provides that the law will be known as the "Medical School Letter Grade Act".

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 17:3384)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Clarifies the start date as August 1, 2027.
2. Changes the grading scale from a letter grade scale of A, B, C, D, or F to a tiered grading system of High-Pass, Pass, Low-Pass, or Fail.