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**HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Education to Original House Bill No. 1008  
by Representative Owen

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1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 2, delete lines 6 through 8 and insert the following:

3 "(3) "Free speech" means expression protected under the First Amendment  
4 of the Constitution of the United States of America, as interpreted by the United  
5 States Supreme Court, and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana."

6 AMENDMENT NO. 2

7 On page 3, delete lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

8 "(c) Exercising free speech during student instruction consistent with his  
9 academic field and the subject matter of the course.

10 (d) Exercising free speech outside the scope of student instruction,  
11 including extramural free speech involving public appearances, publications,  
12 and other expression on topics outside his academic field."

13 AMENDMENT NO. 3

14 On page 4, delete lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

15 "(a) Reinstatement, back pay, and restoration of benefits or tenure status if  
16 the faculty member proves by a preponderance of the evidence that an adverse action  
17 against him was retaliation for conduct provided for in Paragraph (B)(1) of this  
18 Section.

19 (b) Compensatory damages, including treble damages for willful violations.

20 (c) Reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

21 (d) Punitive damages of up to five hundred thousand dollars for egregious  
22 or repeated violations."

23 AMENDMENT NO. 4

24 On page 4, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

25 "E. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to do either of the following:

26 (1) Limit or restrict the authority of an institution to make legitimate,  
27 merit-based personnel decisions, including the granting or denial of tenure,  
28 promotion, or any other employment action.

29 (2) Prohibit an institution from denying tenure, promotion, or any other  
30 benefit to a faculty member who fails to satisfy established, codified performance  
31 standards, rubrics, teaching effectiveness criteria, research expectations, service  
32 requirements, or other legitimate academic or institutional criteria, as long as such  
33 decision is not made in retaliation for conduct provided for in Paragraph (B)(1) of  
34 this Section."

35 AMENDMENT NO. 5

36 On page 4, at the beginning of line 9, delete "E." and insert "F."

- 1 AMENDMENT NO. 6
- 2 On page 4, at the beginning of line 12, delete "F." and insert "G."