The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 291 Original 2020 Regular Session Jackson

Present law generally provides for school guidance counselors.

Proposed law retains present law, further provides for school counseling volunteers.

Proposed law requires the state Department of Education (DOE) to establish a program for training and certifying persons to be counseling volunteers.

Proposed law provides that the DOE training sessions may be held in conjunction with other training sessions, continuing education programs, or other professional development programs held by the department. Requires the DOE to host at least two training sessions a year and disseminate information relative to such sessions to each city, parish, and other local school board in a timely fashion.

Proposed law prohibits persons who are guilty of or who have pled to certain crimes or whose name is recorded on the state central registry for child abuse and neglect from being certified by DOE as a counseling volunteer.

Proposed law further requires the DOE to perform a background review of the criminal history information and state registry of child abuse and neglect of each person seeking certification. Further provides that the DOE may collect the processing fees charged by specified state and federal agencies performing background checks and timely submit the fees to the respective agencies.

Directs the La State Law Institute to recodify specific sections of present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:607 and 608)