

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request each public postsecondary education institution to develop or enhance its anti-discrimination policies and procedures in order to combat antisemitism on campuses and to report related data to its management board and to urge and request each management board to report a summary of such data to the House Committee on Education and the attorney general.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana condemns all acts of hate and bias, including antisemitism, and seeks to promote civil rights, safety, respect, and dignity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the state also affirms the right of all students, faculty, and staff at postsecondary institutions to be free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, or national origin and recognizes that this is guaranteed under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America and Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Jewish students in Louisiana and across the country are targeted by acts of hate, including threats, harassment, intimidation, and vandalism, on college campuses; and

WHEREAS, according to the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) annual audit of antisemitic incidents, in 2024, there were 9,354 incidents of antisemitic assault, harassment, and vandalism across the country, and this represents a 5% increase from 2023, a 344% increase over the past five years, and a 926% increase over the past ten years, reaching the highest level recorded by ADL; the audit also revealed that Louisiana has experienced a nearly six-fold increase in such incidents since 2020; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has developed a working definition of antisemitism, and this definition is an appropriate guide for policy and enforcement purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each public postsecondary education institution to develop or enhance its anti-discrimination policies and procedures in order to combat antisemitism on campuses by January 1, 2026, guided by the IHRA working definition and in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, and all applicable Louisiana laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each public postsecondary education institution to condemn violence, intimidation, lawlessness, and acts of antisemitism on college campuses; condemn protest activities that prevent Jewish students and faculty from accessing school facilities, libraries, dining halls, and other common areas; support the right of all students to peacefully assemble; support the right of Jewish college students, faculty, and staff to feel safe and secure on their campuses; support the right of Jewish college students to attend classes and access all areas of campus; and support the right of Jews to worship peacefully and without fear of violence or intimidation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each public postsecondary education institution should, at a minimum, provide a statement setting forth the institution's commitment to fostering a campus environment that is free from discrimination and harassment, including antisemitism, on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, or national origin that provides for recognition, respect, and equal treatment for all student organizations, including all Jewish and religious groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the start of each academic semester, each campus should do the following:

(1) Notify all students, staff, and faculty of the institution's policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, or national origin, the range of disciplinary action for policy violations, and policies and procedures for filing a complaint or reporting such discrimination or harassment.

(2) Notify all administrators, faculty, and staff responsible for receiving reports and complaints of such discrimination and harassment of their obligations under state and federal civil rights laws when they receive such reports and complaints.

(3) Encourage campus dialogue, activities, and programming to promote a campus community built on respect, unity, and genuine interest in all people, religions, and cultures free from violence, hatred, and division.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana sees value in verifying that public postsecondary education institutions that receive federal funding are in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 relative to being free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin despite such reporting not being mandated on the federal level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each public postsecondary education institution to submit a written report of its response to any complaints of antisemitism alleging Title VI discrimination, including harassment, for each academic year since Fall 2023 to its management board not later than December 31, 2025, and make the data publicly available on the institution's website in accordance with state and federal law and does hereby urge and request each management board to compile and submit a statewide summary of its institutions' data to the House Committee on Education and the attorney general not later than January 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the collection, reporting, and disclosure of such data shall be in accordance with state and federal law regarding the collection, maintenance, use, and disclosure of personally identifiable information and that this Resolution shall not be construed to restrict constitutionally protected speech, the freedom of association, or the right to peacefully assemble.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the attorney general and the president of each public postsecondary education system, who shall disseminate it to the system's institutions.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES