

ACT No. 497

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 384

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRYANT AND CHASSION

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a) and (b) and to enact R.S. 17:416(O), relative to
3 discipline of students in public schools; to provide for discipline of certain students
4 found to be in possession of certain substances on school property; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a) and (b) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
8 17:416(O) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §416. Discipline of students; suspension; expulsion

10 * * *

11 C.

12 * * *

13 (2)(a)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section and
14 except as provided in Item (ii) of this Subparagraph, any student in grades six
15 through twelve who is found guilty of being in possession of a firearm, a knife with
16 a blade equal to or in excess of two and one-half inches in length, or any illegal
17 narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or
18 at a school-sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1)
19 of this Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of ~~four~~ two
20 complete school semesters and shall be referred to the district attorney for
21 appropriate action. However, the superintendent may modify the length of such
22 minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such
23 modification is in writing.

(ii) A student found guilty of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof shall not be subject to the provisions of Item (i) of this Subparagraph unless it is the second or subsequent occurrence.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, any student in grades six through twelve found guilty of being in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or vaping product or found guilty on the first occurrence of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event may be recommended for expulsion.

* * *

O. Each city, parish, and other local public school board shall gather data and
annually report findings related to expulsions to the state Department of Education.

This report shall include:

(1) The number of students expelled after the first occasion for committing
any of the offenses enumerated in Subsection B or Subsection C of this Section.

(2) The number of students expelled after the second or subsequent occasion for committing any of the offenses enumerated in Subsection B or Subsection C of this Section.

(3) The number of students who return to a regular school setting after completion of the period of expulsion at an alternative school or alternative educational placement.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____