

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 497 (HB 384)

2025 Regular Session

Bryant

Prior law provided that a student in grades six through 12 who was found guilty of being in possession of a firearm, a knife with a blade equal to or in excess of two and one-half inches in length, or any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property was required to be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete school semesters and referred to the district attorney. New law reduces minimum number of semesters for which such a student is required to be expelled from four to two. Further provides that for such students found guilty of possessing marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), or any chemical derivative thereof, such expulsion penalties only apply after the second or subsequent occurrence.

Existing law provides that any student in grades six through 12 found guilty of being in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or vaping product on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event may be recommended for expulsion. New law additionally applies existing law to students found guilty on the first occurrence of being in possession of marijuana, THC, or any chemical derivative thereof.

New law requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to gather and annually report data relative to expulsions related to certain offenses to the state Dept. of Education, including the number of students who return to a regular school setting after attending an alternative school or having an alternative educational placement during an expulsion.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a) and (b); Adds R.S. 17:416(O))