

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON AND CARLSON

CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Changes sentencing guidelines for posting or calling in threats to schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:40.1(A)(1), R.S. 15:951(E), and Children's Code Article
3 897.1(D) through (G) and to enact R.S. 14:40.1(A)(3) and (B)(3), 92.2(A)(2)(g) and
4 (h), R.S. 17:416.20.1 and 3996(B)(92), and Children's Code Article 897.1(H) and (I),
5 relative to the crimes of terrorizing and menacing; to provide for penalties when the
6 communication is directed toward a school; to provide relative to offenders under the
7 age of eighteen; to require school dissemination of certain information; to provide
8 relative to disposition after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquent acts; and
9 to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 14:40.1(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
12 14:40.1(A)(3) and (B)(3) and 92.2(A)(2)(g) and (h) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §40.1. Terrorizing; menacing

14 A.(1) Terrorizing is the intentional communication of information that the
15 commission of a crime of violence, as defined in R.S. 14:2(B), is imminent or in
16 progress or that a circumstance dangerous to human life exists or is about to exist,
17 with the intent of causing members of the general public to be in sustained fear for
18 their safety; or causing evacuation of a building, a public structure, or a facility of
19 transportation; or causing other serious disruption to the general public.

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7 B.

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14 §92.2. Improper supervision of a minor by parent or legal custodian

15 A. Improper supervision of a minor by a parent or legal custodian, who has
16 care and control of the minor, includes any of the following:

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* * *

21 (g) Terrorize or menace a school in violation of R.S. 14:40.1.

* * *

25 Section 2. R.S. 15:951(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

26 §951. Back on Track Youth Pilot Program

* * *

1 E. For the purposes of this Section, "youth or youths" ~~shall mean~~ means a
2 person who has attained at least ~~sixteen~~ fourteen years of age and not more than
3 twenty-four years of age.

4 Section 3. R.S. 17:416.20.1 and 3996(B)(92) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 §416.20.1. Information; terrorizing; Louisiana Department of Education; public
6 school distribution

19 B. The Louisiana Department of Education shall develop the information
20 prescribed by this Section and provide it to each public school governing authority,
21 which shall disseminate it to each principal for this purpose.

* * *

23 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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25 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
26 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
27 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
28 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
29 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are

1 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
2 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(92) Information relative to terrorizing or menacing a school property, a school-sponsored function, or a firearm-free zone, R.S. 17:416.20.1.

* * *

7 Section 4. Children's Code Article 897.1(D) through (G) are hereby amended and
8 reenacted and Children's Code Article 897.1(H) and (I) are hereby enacted to read as
9 follows:

10 Art. 897.1. Disposition after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquent acts

* * *

12 D.(1)(a) After adjudication of a felony-grade delinquent act based upon a
13 violation of R.S. 14:40.1 or R.S. 14:54.6, the court shall order the child who is
14 fourteen years of age or older at the time of the commission of the offense to any or
15 all of the following:

(iii) Participation in the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program as provided in
R.S. 15:951.

24 D. F. Juveniles confined in secure placement for an adjudication as set forth
25 in Paragraph C of this Article shall be eligible for modification after serving
26 twenty-four months of the disposition or if the disposition is less than thirty-six
27 months, one-half of the disposition.

28 **E. G.** A motion for modification of a disposition shall be filed pursuant to
29 Article 910 et seq. and a contradictory hearing shall be set no sooner than thirty days

1 from the date of notice to the district attorney. To grant a motion for modification
2 of disposition, the court ~~must~~ shall find that the child poses a reduced risk to the
3 community based on the following considerations:

4 (1) The child has a favorable progress report from the placement facility.
5 (2) The child meets one of the following work or self-improvement criteria:
6 (a) Has attained a high school diploma or equivalent.

7 (b) Is actively participating in workforce training or a certification program
8 and is in good standing as evidenced by grades and behavior notes submitted by the
9 child's instructors.

10 (3) The child has obtained a low-risk designation as determined by a valid
11 risk assessment procedure approved by the office of juvenile justice.

12 (4) The recommendation of the office of juvenile justice.

13 (5) A reentry plan that includes an appropriate placement to conduct
14 supervision and achieve aftercare goals.

15 (6) Any additional evidence provided by the child, the state, or the office of
16 juvenile justice.

17 ~~F. H.~~ At least six months prior to the release of the child, the department
18 shall prepare an individualized and thorough transitional plan that identifies the
19 techniques, programs, personnel, and facilities that will be used to assist the child in
20 achieving a successful return to his family and the community. A copy of the
21 transitional plan shall be mailed to the court that ordered the disposition of
22 commitment.

23 ~~G. I.~~ The provisions of this Article ~~shall~~ apply to all children in the custody
24 of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of juvenile justice, on or
25 after August 1, 2018.

26 Section 5. This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The School Threat
27 Accountability and Safety Act".

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 137 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Increases penalties for terrorizing and menacing when the target is a school.

Present law provides that the crime of terrorizing is the intentional communication that a crime of violence is occurring or imminent with the intent to cause the general public to be in sustained fear for their safety. Provides a penalty of \$15,000 or up to 15 years of imprisonment, or both.

Proposed law increases the penalty for terrorizing a school. Provides a penalty of \$15,000 or five to 15 years of imprisonment without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence, or both.

Present law provides that the crime of menacing is similar to the crime of terrorizing but with a lesser standard of intent. Provides a penalty of \$1,000 or imprisonment of up to two years, or both.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law increases the penalty for menacing a school. Provides a penalty of \$1,000 or two to five years of imprisonment, or both.

Present law provides a list of crimes which serve as predicate crimes for improper supervision of a minor by a parent or legal custodian (R.S. 14:92.2).

Proposed law retains present law and adds terrorizing or menacing a school (R.S. 14:40.1) and communicating false information of a planned bombing on school property (R.S. 14:54.6) as predicate crimes.

Present law creates the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program (R.S. 15:951).

Proposed law generally retains present law but lowers the age of participants in the program from at least 16 years old to at least 14 years old.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Education to develop and provide information to schools to inform students and their parents of the expected consequences for terrorizing or menacing a school.

Present law (R.S. 17:3996) provides a list of laws from which charter schools are not exempt.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the requirement for charter schools to inform students and parents of the consequences of terrorizing and menacing a school.

Present law provides for disposition after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquent acts by a juvenile.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that after adjudication for violation of terrorizing or menacing (R.S. 14:40.1) or communicating false information of a planned bombing (R.S. 14:54.6), the court

shall order a child to undergo a mental examination, up to 12 months probation or up to six months commitment in a juvenile detention facility, and/or participation in the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law provides that after adjudication for these crimes by a juvenile, the parent or legal guardian shall be subject to a civil fine of up to \$5,000.

Proposed law provides that after a second or subsequent adjudication for these crimes, the court shall order a mental examination, up to 18 months probation or up to nine months commitment, and/or participation in the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law provides that after a second or subsequent adjudication, the child's parent or legal guardian is subject to a civil fine between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Proposed law provides that in addition to these penalties, if the court finds that the parents are financially able, they shall reimburse the government agencies and political subdivision for incurred costs pertaining to the response, prosecution, and other activities resulting from the violation.

(Amends R.S. 14:40.1(A)(1), R.S. 15:951(E), and Ch.C. Art. 897.1(D)-(G); Adds R.S. 14:40.1(A)(3) and (B)(3) and 92.2(A)(2)(g) and (h), R.S. 17:416.20.1 and 3996(B)(92), and Ch.C. Art. 897.1(H) and (I))