

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 283

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to incidents of assault and battery on teachers and other school employees

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c)(vii)(aa) and (cc) and to enact R.S. 17:47(C)(1)(a)(iv), 416(A)(1)(c)(vii)(ee), 500.1(C)(3), 1201(C)(3), and 1206.1(A)(3), relative to the assault and battery of school employees; to provide for the sick leave of such employees; to provide for the applicability of student disciplinary provisions; to provide for student disciplinary procedures; to provide relative to student records; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Teacher's Shield Act".

Section 2. R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c)(vii)(aa) and (cc) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:47(C)(1)(a)(iv), 416(A)(1)(c)(vii)(ee), 500.1(C)(3), 1201(C)(3) and 1206.1(A)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§47. Sick and personal leave

* * *

C.(1)(a)

* * *

(iv) Such sick leave may be used for purposes that include but are not limited to medical treatment, psychological treatment, and physical rehabilitation.

* * *

1 §416. Discipline of students; suspension; expulsion

2 A.(1)

3 * * *

4 (c)

5 * * *

6 (vii)(aa) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, whenever a
7 student is formally accused of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:34.3 or school
8 disciplinary rules, or both, by committing a battery on any school employee either
9 on or off of school property or is formally accused of violating the provisions of R.S.
10 14:38.2 or school disciplinary rules, or both, by committing an assault on any school
11 employee either on or off of school property, the principal shall suspend the student
12 from school immediately and the student shall be removed immediately from the
13 school premises or prohibited from returning to the school premises, as applicable,
14 without the benefit of the out-of-school suspension procedures provided by this
15 Section; however, the necessary notifications and other procedures shall be
16 implemented as soon as is practicable. For purposes of this Item, "school employee"
17 means any person employed by the school and any substitute teacher, substitute bus
18 operator, or school volunteer.

19 * * *

20 (cc) ~~Except when the school system has no other school of suitable grade~~
21 ~~level for the student to attend, no~~ No student found guilty by a court of competent
22 jurisdiction of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:34.3 or 38.2, or both, or found
23 guilty at a school system suspension hearing of committing a battery or assault on
24 any school employee, or both, shall be assigned to attend or shall attend the school
25 to which the school employee battered or assaulted by the student is assigned. The
26 principal or his designee shall immediately recommend the student's expulsion,
27 which shall be subject to the provisions of Subsection C of this Section except as
28 provided in this Subitem. Any such expulsion shall be no less than two complete
29 school semesters in duration, during which time the superintendent shall place the

1 student in an alternative school or in an alternative educational placement as
2 provided in Subparagraph (2)(c) of this Subsection and the student shall participate
3 in an anger management program. A student expelled as provided in this Subitem
4 shall not, under any circumstances, be assigned to or allowed to attend the school to
5 which the school employee battered or assaulted by the student is assigned.

6 * * *

7 (ee) All documentation relative to the provisions of this Item shall be
8 included and maintained in the student's records.

9 * * *

10 §500.1. School bus operators; sick leave

11 * * *

12 C.

13 * * *

14 (3) Such sick leave may be used for purposes that include but are not limited
15 to medical treatment, psychological treatment, and physical rehabilitation.

16 * * *

17 §1201. Amount of sick leave; reimbursement; injury on the job

18 * * *

19 C.

20 * * *

21 (3) Such sick leave may be used for purposes that include but are not limited
22 to medical treatment, psychological treatment, and physical rehabilitation.

23 * * *

24 §1206.1. School employees; sick leave

25 A.

26 * * *

27 (3) Such sick leave may be used for purposes that include but are not limited
28 to medical treatment, psychological treatment, and physical rehabilitation.

29 * * *

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 283 Original

2026 Regular Session

Newell

Abstract: Provides for student discipline and employee sick leave with respect to the assault and battery of school employees.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "Teacher's Shield Act".

Student discipline

Present law provides that when a student is formally accused of violating present law or school disciplinary rules, or both, by committing a battery or an assault on any school employee, the principal shall suspend the student from school immediately and the student shall be removed immediately from the school premises. Proposed law retains present law, applies present law to incidents that occur on or off of school property, and defines "school employee" as any person employed by the school and any substitute teacher, substitute bus operator, or school volunteer.

Present law prohibits such a student from being considered for readmission to the school to which the school employee, allegedly assaulted or battered, or both, by the student, is assigned until all hearings and appeals associated with the alleged violation have been exhausted. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits a student found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of violating present law or found guilty at a school system suspension hearing of committing a battery or assault on any school employee, or both, from being assigned to attend or attending the school to which the school employee battered or assaulted by the student is assigned, except when the school system has no other school of suitable grade level for the student to attend. Proposed law retains present law but removes the present law exception and further requires that the student be immediately recommended for expulsion. Provides that any such expulsion shall be no less than two complete school semesters in duration, during which time the superintendent shall place the student in an alternative school or in an alternative educational placement as provided in present law and the student shall participate in an anger management program. Further provides that a student expelled as provided in proposed law shall not, under any circumstances, be assigned to or allowed to attend the school to which the school employee battered or assaulted by the student is assigned. Requires all documentation relative to present law and proposed law to be included and maintained in student records.

Employee sick leave

Present law allows up to a year of sick leave, without loss of pay or loss of accumulated leave, for teachers and other school employees if injured or disabled while acting in their official capacity as a result of assault or battery by any student or person; circumstances vary depending on whether the employee is employed by a state special school or a local public school board and is a teacher, a bus operator, or other school employee. Proposed law retains present law and specifies that such sick leave may be used for purposes including but not limited to medical treatment, psychological treatment, and physical rehabilitation.

(Amends R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(c)(vii)(aa) and (cc); Adds R.S. 17:47(C)(1)(a)(iv), 416(A)(1)(c)(vii)(ee), 500.1(C)(3), 1201(C)(3), and 1206.1(A)(3))