

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 536

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Provides requirements relative to the location of wireless communication facilities with respect to school property, including permitting requirements

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2111, relative to wireless communication facilities; to provide for the  
3 placement of wireless communication facilities with respect to their proximity to  
4 school property; to provide for permits; to provide for exceptions; to provide for  
5 definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "School Infrastructure  
8 Safety and Emergency Coordination Act".

9 Section 2.(A) The legislature finds and declares that the state of Louisiana has a  
10 compelling interest in protecting students, faculty, and school property from structural  
11 hazards, falling debris, fire risks, and emergency access obstructions associated with tall  
12 structures.

13 (B) The legislature finds and declares that schools require coordinated emergency  
14 planning in areas where critical infrastructure is located nearby.

15 (C) The legislature finds and declares that equipment, structures, and improvements  
16 used to provide personal wireless services are essential infrastructure supporting public  
17 safety, emergency services, education, and commerce.

1 Section 3. R.S. 17:2111 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §2111. Wireless communication facilities

3 A. The purpose of this Section is to provide for safety with respect to the  
4 placement of wireless communication facilities near schools while preserving the  
5 availability of wireless services. As used in this Section:

6 (1) "Colocation" means the placement of wireless transmission equipment  
7 on an existing structure, including towers, utility poles, water towers, rooftops, or  
8 similar structures.

9 (2) "School" means any elementary or secondary school.

10 (3) "School proximity zone" means an area within one thousand feet of a  
11 school property boundary.

12 (4) "Wireless communication facility" means equipment, structures, and  
13 improvements used to provide personal wireless services.

14 B. A newly constructed freestanding wireless tower located within a school  
15 proximity zone shall maintain a setback from any school building equal to at least  
16 one hundred ten percent of the tower height. This requirement shall not apply to the  
17 following:

18 (1) Antennas collocated on existing structures.

19 (2) Concealed or stealth installations.

20 (3) Facilities where a licensed professional engineer certifies that an  
21 alternative setback provides equivalent structural safety.

22 C.(1) An applicant proposing construction of a new freestanding tower  
23 within a school proximity zone shall demonstrate good faith efforts to collocate on  
24 existing structures, including but not limited to the following:

25 (a) Identification of suitable existing structures within the search area.

26 (b) Written requests to structure owners.

27 (c) Documentation of responses received.

28 (d) Engineering analysis where colocation is determined infeasible.

1           (2) Colocation is not required if it is determined to be technically infeasible  
2           or economically unreasonable by the applicable state or local entity.

3           D.(1) Construction of a new freestanding wireless tower within a school  
4           proximity zone shall require a conditional use permit from the applicable state or  
5           local entity. Granting of the permit shall be based on the following considerations:

6           (a) Structural integrity and wind-load compliance.

7           (b) Fall radius and debris mitigation.

8           (c) Fire code compliance.

9           (d) Emergency vehicle access.

10          (e) Security fencing and restricted access.

11          (f) Reasonable visual mitigation measures.

12          (2) If the permit is denied, the denial shall be in writing, supported by  
13          substantial evidence, and issued within applicable federal timeframes.

14          E. Operators of freestanding towers within a school proximity zone shall  
15          provide current emergency contact information to the school, certify annual  
16          structural inspection compliance, and coordinate disaster response planning upon the  
17          school's request.

18          F. Subsequent modifications to such towers shall be made in compliance  
19          with applicable federal law.

20          G. Nothing in this Section shall be:

21          (1) Construed to regulate radio frequency emissions or the technical  
22          operation of wireless communication services.

23          (2) Construed to prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of  
24          personal wireless services.

25          (3) Be applied in a manner inconsistent with 47 U.S.C. 332 or other  
26          applicable federal law.

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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)]

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HB 536 Original

2026 Regular Session

Coates

**Abstract:** Provides requirements relative to the location of wireless communication facilities with respect to school property, including permitting requirements.

Proposed law provides the following:

- (1) Defines a "school proximity zone" as area within 1,000 of a school property boundary.
- (2) A newly constructed freestanding wireless tower located within a school proximity zone shall maintain a setback from any school building equal to at least 110% of the tower height.
- (3) An applicant proposing construction of a new freestanding tower within a school proximity zone shall demonstrate good faith efforts to colocate on existing structures.
- (4) Construction of a new freestanding wireless tower within a school proximity zone shall require a conditional use permit.
- (5) Operators of freestanding towers within a school proximity zone shall provide current emergency contact information to the school, certify annual structural inspection compliance, and coordinate disaster response planning upon request.
- (6) Subsequent modifications of such towers shall comply with applicable federal law.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "School Infrastructure Safety and Emergency Coordination Act".

(Adds R.S. 17:2111)