

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 636

BY REPRESENTATIVE LAFLEUR AND SENATORS BOUDREAUX AND PRICE

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides relative to hazing at public postsecondary education institutions

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1801 and to repeal R.S. 17:1801.1, relative to hazing of
3 students at public postsecondary education institutions; to provide for the prevention
4 of, reporting of, and response to hazing; to provide for definitions; to provide for
5 reporting; 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 Caleb Wilson Hazing
8 Prevention Act."

9 Section 2. R.S. 17:1801 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §1801. Hazing prohibited; reporting; ~~documentation~~ documentation; education;
11 policies; new student orientation; organizations

12 A. Definitions. For purposes of this Section, the following terms have the
13 following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 (1)(a) "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed
15 by a person acting alone or with others that is directed against another individual,
16 when both of the following apply:

17 (i) The actor knew or reasonably should have known that the act endangered
18 the physical health or safety of the other individual or caused severe emotional
19 distress.

1 (ii) The act was associated with pledging, initiation into, affiliation with,
2 participation in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization.

3 (b) "Hazing" includes but is not limited to any of the following acts
4 associated with pledging, initiation, affiliation, participation, holding office, or
5 maintaining membership in any organization:

6 (i) Physical brutality including but not limited to beating, branding, electric
7 shocking, paddling, placing a harmful substance on the body, striking, or similar
8 activity.

9 (ii) Physical activity that subjects an individual to an unreasonable risk of
10 harm, adversely affects physical health or safety, or causes severe emotional distress
11 including but not limited to calisthenics, confinement in a small space, exposure to
12 the elements, and sleep deprivation.

13 (iii) Activity involving the consumption of food, liquid, or any other
14 substance, including but not limited to alcohol or drugs, that subjects the individual
15 to an unreasonable risk of harm, adversely affects physical health or safety, or causes
16 severe emotional distress.

17 (iv) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to commit a
18 crime or engage in an act that constitutes hazing under this Section.

19 (c) A physical activity that is normal, customary, and necessary for training
20 and participation in an athletic, physical education, military training, or similar
21 program officially sanctioned by the postsecondary education institution shall not be
22 considered hazing for purposes of this Section.

23 (2) "Hearing panel" means a body designated by a postsecondary education
24 institution pursuant to its student code of conduct to adjudicate alleged hazing
25 violations, and to determine responsibility and recommend or impose sanctions when
26 suspension or expulsion may be a possible outcome.

27 (3)(a) "Organization" means any group whose members are primarily
28 students at, or former students of, a postsecondary education institution including but
29 not limited to the following:

1 (i) An association.

2 (ii) An athletic team.

3 (iii) A band.

4 (iv) A club.

5 (v) A cooperative.

6 (vi) A corporation.

7 (vii) A corps.

8 (viii) A fraternity.

9 (ix) An order.

10 (x) A service group.

11 (xi) A social group.

12 (xii) A spirit group.

13 (xiii) A society.

14 (xiv) A sorority.

15 (xv) Any similar group.

16 (b) "Organization" includes any national, regional, or parent organization of
17 which an entity listed in this Paragraph is a sanctioned, recognized, or affiliated
18 member at the time an incident of hazing occurs.

19 (4) "Pledging" means any action or activity related to becoming a member
20 of an organization, including recruitment, rushing, and initiation-related activities.

21 (5) "Postsecondary education institution", "education institution", and
22 "institution" mean any postsecondary education institution in this state supported
23 wholly or in part by public funds.

24 (6) "Student organizational advisor" means an individual who is a faculty or
25 staff member at an institution, or other adult who is designated by an institution or
26 by a student organization, to provide guidance, support, and advice to a student
27 organization relative to conducting the organization's activities, programs, and
28 meetings.

1 B. Hazing prohibited; education; resources. (1) Hazing in any form, ~~or the~~
2 ~~use of any method of initiation into organizations in any education institution~~
3 ~~supported wholly or in part by public funds, which is likely to cause bodily danger~~
4 ~~or physical punishment to any student or other~~ of any person attending any such an
5 education institution is prohibited.

6 ~~B:~~ (2) Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be expelled,
7 suspended, or dismissed from the education institution and not permitted to return
8 for at least one semester, quarter, or comparable academic period. In addition, the
9 person violating the provisions of this Section may also be subject to the provisions
10 of R.S. 14:40.8 which provides penalties for certain hazing activities.

11 (3)(a) Beginning in the fall semester of 2027, and annually thereafter, each
12 student shall be provided education information on the dangers of and prohibition
13 on hazing either in-person or electronically.

14 (b) In addition to the requirement in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, each
15 new student shall be provided educational information on the dangers of and
16 prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process either in-person or
17 electronically.

18 (c) If a student is a minor, the information shall be provided to his parent or
19 legal guardian.

20 (4)(a) Each institution and organization shall make available and provide
21 information about resources to a student who is an alleged victim of hazing,
22 including information on how to access medical and reporting resources and
23 counseling that the institution or community offers.

24 (b) Each institution shall incorporate the requirements of this Section into
25 its hazing prevention policies as required by Subsection D of this Section.

26 C. Reporting; data publication. (1) If an organization has taken disciplinary
27 action against one of its ~~members~~ members, representatives, or officers for hazing
28 or has reason to believe that any member of the organization has participated in an

1 incident of hazing, the organization shall report the incident to law enforcement in
2 accordance with R.S. 14:40.8 and the institution with which it is affiliated.

3 (2) If an organization or any of its ~~members~~ members, representatives, or
4 officers has been disciplined by a parent organization for hazing, the organization
5 shall report the hazing for which the organization was disciplined to the institution
6 with which it is affiliated.

7 (3) If an organization fails to report an incident of hazing as required by this
8 Section, the institution shall impose a disciplinary action against the organization in
9 accordance with institutional policies.

10 ~~(2)~~ (4) When the institution receives a report of an alleged incident of
11 hazing pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the institution
12 shall do both of the following:

13 (a) Report to law enforcement as required by R.S. 14:40.8. The information
14 reported to law enforcement shall include all information and details received by the
15 institution relative to the alleged incident, with no information being redacted,
16 including the name of all individuals alleged to have committed the act or acts of
17 hazing identified in the report.

18 (b) Document in writing all actions taken with regard to the report including
19 but not limited to the date the report was received, reports made to law enforcement
20 as provided in R.S. 14:40.8, and any other information relative to the institution's
21 investigation, processing, and resolution of the incident.

22 ~~(3)~~ (5) The Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary
23 education management boards, shall develop the following:

24 (a) A standardized form that organizations shall use in making the reports
25 required by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

26 (b) A standardized form that institutions shall use to document such reports,
27 reports made to law enforcement as provided in R.S. 14:40.8, and the manner in
28 which each hazing incident is handled and resolved at the institution level.

1 ~~(c) A policy relative to making available to the public certain information~~
2 ~~relative to hazing that is documented pursuant to this Paragraph.~~

3 ~~D. For purposes of this Section and R.S. 17:1801.1:~~

4 ~~(1)(a) "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act by a person~~
5 ~~acting alone or acting with others that is directed against another when both of the~~
6 ~~following apply:~~

7 ~~(i) The person knew or should have known that such an act endangers the~~
8 ~~physical health or safety of the other person or causes severe emotional distress.~~

9 ~~(ii) The act was associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating~~
10 ~~with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any~~
11 ~~organization.~~

12 ~~(b) "Hazing" includes but is not limited to any of the following acts~~
13 ~~associated with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in,~~
14 ~~holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization:~~

15 ~~(i) Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, paddling, striking, branding,~~
16 ~~electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.~~

17 ~~(ii) Physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements,~~
18 ~~confinement in a small space, or calisthenics, that subjects the other person to an~~
19 ~~unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of~~
20 ~~the individual or causes severe emotional distress.~~

21 ~~(iii) Activity involving consumption of food, liquid, or any other substance,~~
22 ~~including but not limited to an alcoholic beverage or drug, that subjects the~~
23 ~~individual to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical~~
24 ~~health or safety of the individual or causes severe emotional distress.~~

25 ~~(iv) Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty~~
26 ~~or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.~~

27 ~~(c) A physical activity that is normal, customary, and necessary for a~~
28 ~~person's training and participation in an athletic, physical education, military~~

1 ~~training, or similar program sanctioned by the postsecondary education institution~~
2 ~~is not considered "hazing" for purposes of this Section.~~

3 ~~(2) "Organization" means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation,~~
4 ~~order, society, corps, cooperative, club, service group, social group, band, spirit~~
5 ~~group, athletic team, or similar group whose members are primarily students at, or~~
6 ~~former students of, a postsecondary education institution. "Organization" includes~~
7 ~~the national or parent organization of which any of the underlying entities provided~~
8 ~~for in this Paragraph is a sanctioned or recognized member at the time of the hazing.~~

9 ~~(3) "Pledging" means any action or activity related to becoming a member~~
10 ~~of an organization, including recruitment and rushing.~~

11 ~~(4) "Postsecondary education institution", "education institution", and~~
12 ~~"institution" mean any postsecondary education institution in this state supported~~
13 ~~wholly or in part by public funds.~~

14 (6) Online publication. (a) Each institution shall maintain a publicly
15 accessible website that discloses conduct findings and disciplinary sanctions imposed
16 on organizations recognized or affiliated with the institution, provided that
17 personally identifiable information of individuals shall be redacted pursuant to
18 Subparagraph (e) of this Paragraph.

19 (b) At a minimum, for each organization that the institution found
20 responsible for a policy or code violation, the website shall include the following:

21 (i) The name of the organization.

22 (ii) Each specific policy listed in the institutional student code of conduct
23 that the organization violated.

24 (iii) A brief description of the violation, presented in a manner that protects
25 individual privacy.

26 (iv) The date on or academic term in which the organization violated policy.

27 (v) The disciplinary sanctions the institution imposed on the organization.

28 (vi) The current disciplinary status of the organization.

1 (c) The institution shall update the information on the website required by
2 this Section at least once per academic semester no later than April tenth and October
3 tenth and additionally as new violations are adjudicated or sanctions are modified or
4 imposed.

5 (d) Each institution shall determine a minimum period of time for which
6 disciplinary records and status information shall remain publicly available. This
7 period of time shall not be shorter than the duration of the sanction and any
8 probationary period.

9 (e) Privacy Protections. The information that the institution posts on the
10 publicly accessible website shall exclude the names and personally identifiable
11 information of individual students and shall comply with all applicable state and
12 federal privacy laws.

13 (f) Applicability. This Paragraph applies to all organizations as defined in
14 this Section.

15 (g) The management boards shall send an annual systemwide summary
16 report of the information contained in this Paragraph to the Board of Regents by
17 January thirtieth.

18 (h) The Board of Regents shall submit a report of a summary of the
19 information in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph to the House and Senate
20 committees on education, the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal
21 Justice, the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, and the House and
22 Senate select committees on women and children by February twenty-eighth
23 annually. The report shall also include any recommendations for legislation. The
24 Board of Regents shall publish the report on its website.

25 D. Hazing prevention policy. (1) The Board of Regents, in consultation
26 with each postsecondary management board, shall establish uniform policies and
27 best practices to implement measures to address the reporting of hazing on
28 institutional campuses and the prevention of hazing.

1 (2) Each postsecondary education management board shall institute policies
2 incorporating the policies and best practices prescribed by the Board of Regents
3 regarding the prevention of and reporting of hazing committed by or against students
4 of an institution. The policies, at a minimum, shall provide for the following:

5 (a) Online reporting. Each institution shall provide an online reporting
6 system permitting third-party reporting, allowing any individual to submit a
7 confidential or anonymous report of a witnessed or known incident of hazing,
8 regardless of whether the reporting individual is the person directly impacted.

9 (b) Immunities. A person acting in good faith who reports or assists in the
10 investigation of a report of an incident of hazing, or who testifies or otherwise
11 participates in a disciplinary process or judicial proceeding arising from such a
12 report, shall not be subjected to any disciplinary action by the institution in which the
13 person is enrolled or employed for any violation of the institution's code of conduct
14 that is reasonably related to the incident, provided that suspension or expulsion from
15 the institution is not a possible punishment for the violation. This Subparagraph
16 shall not apply to a person who perpetrates or assists in the perpetration of a reported
17 hazing incident.

18 (c) False reporting. An individual who is determined by the institution's
19 disciplinary procedures to have knowingly, with the intent to harm or deceive, made
20 a report that is knowingly false shall be sanctioned in accordance with the
21 institution's code of conduct or any other applicable institutional policies.

22 (d) Amnesty policy. The institution shall provide amnesty to any student
23 who reports hazing to the institution in good faith. Such student shall not be
24 sanctioned by the institution for a nonviolent student conduct violation, such as
25 underage drinking, that is revealed in the course of such a report.

26 (e) Training. (i) Each organization shall do the following:

27 (aa) Annually complete at least two hours of hazing prevention education
28 training, in person, electronically, or both, that includes education relative to such

1 policies to all members and anyone who is employed by or volunteers at the
2 organization.

3 (bb) Submit a training completion report annually to the institution with
4 which it is affiliated identifying the students, employees, and volunteers who
5 received the education, evidenced by an attestation of such individuals receiving the
6 education.

7 (cc) The institution shall deactivate the organization's operation on campus
8 if it fails to comply with the provisions of this Subsection.

9 (ii)(aa) Student organizational advisors. Each individual designated by an
10 institution or organization to serve as an advisor shall annually complete, at a
11 minimum, one hour of hazing prevention education training prior to serving as an
12 advisor or in an advisory capacity.

13 (bb) The training specific to organizational advisors shall include, at a
14 minimum, an overview of applicable hazing laws and institutional policies, reporting
15 obligations, and advisor responsibilities related to the prevention of hazing.

16 (cc) Organizational advisors shall submit a training completion report to the
17 institution evidenced by an attestation of such individuals receiving the education.

18 (iii) Hearing Panel. (aa) Each individual serving on an institutional hearing
19 panel or disciplinary body responsible for adjudicating alleged hazing violations
20 shall annually complete hazing prevention education training prior to service on the
21 panel.

22 (bb) The training shall be a minimum of one hour in duration and shall
23 include instruction on hazing definitions and indicators, applicable laws and policies,
24 trauma-informed practices, due process considerations, and sanctioning standards.

25 (cc) Hearing panelists shall submit a training completion report to the
26 institution evidenced by an attestation of such individuals receiving the education.

27 (3) Each institution shall adopt a hazing prevention policy and the policy
28 shall be published on the institution's website.

1 (4) Each organization shall, as a condition of operating at an institution,
2 adopt the hazing prevention policy that the institution has adopted pursuant to
3 Paragraph (3) of this Subsection and shall provide a copy of the policy, either
4 electronically or in writing, to each member and prospective member prior to
5 initiation, acceptance, or participation in organizational activities.

6 E. Penalties for noncompliance. (1) The penalties for noncompliance with
7 the provisions of this Section are as follows:

8 (a) Institutions. An institution's failure to comply with the provisions of this
9 Section shall result in a prohibition, for a period of two years following notice of
10 such noncompliance, on the State Bond Commission authorizing the institution to
11 incur any debt subject to the commission's approval.

12 (b) Organizations. (i) If an organization is in violation of this Section, it
13 shall be subject to disciplinary action by the institution, which may include
14 suspension, expulsion, deactivation, loss of recognition, or other sanctions deemed
15 appropriate.

16 (ii) If a violation by an organization of this Section results in the death of a
17 person, the institution shall impose, and shall not suspend or reduce, one of the
18 following sanctions:

19 (aa) Suspension for a minimum of twenty-five years. Suspension for a
20 period of not less than twenty-five years shall constitute a complete revocation of
21 recognition and operational privileges during that period. The organization shall not
22 be eligible to apply for reinstatement until the expiration of the twenty-five year
23 term.

24 (bb) Permanent banishment, defined as revocation of recognition without
25 eligibility for reinstatement.

26 Section 3. R.S. 17:1801.1 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

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 636 Original

2026 Regular Session

LaFleur

Abstract: Provides relative to the prevention of and penalties for hazing on the postsecondary level.

Present law defines "hazing", "organization", "pledging", and "postsecondary education institution". Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law further defines "hearing panel" and "student organizational advisor".

Prohibition and Penalties

Present law prohibits hazing and requires anyone who violates present law prohibiting hazing to be expelled, suspended, or dismissed from the institution he attends and not permitted to return for at least one semester. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law further provides for the following penalties:

- (1) For an institution, a two- year prohibition on the State Bond Commission authorizing the institution to incur any debt.
- (2) For an organization, suspension, expulsion, deactivation, loss of recognition, or other sanctions deemed appropriate. If a violation by an organization results in the death of a person, a minimum of a 25-year suspension or permanent banishment.

Prevention

Present law requires each new student to be provided educational information on the dangers of and prohibition on hazing during the new student orientation process in the form of a handbook. Proposed law retains present law educational information distribution requirement but requires the information to be distributed to students either in-person or electronically, instead of in a handbook.

Present law requires such information to be provided to the parent of a student if the student is a minor. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to develop and adopt a uniform policy on hazing prevention. Proposed law instead requires the board, in consultation with each postsecondary education management board, to establish uniform policies and best practices to address the reporting of hazing on campuses and the prevention of hazing.

Victim Support

Proposed law requires each organization as defined by present law to make available and provide information about resources to a student who is an alleged victim of hazing, including information on how to access medical and reporting resources and counseling.

Reporting

Present law requires that if an organization takes disciplinary action against a member for hazing, it is required to report the incident to the institution, and subsequently requires the institution to report the incident to law enforcement. Proposed law instead requires the

organization to make both reports, in addition to the institution to reporting to law enforcement.

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary education institution to maintain a publicly accessible website with information on hazing incidents and the corresponding discipline taken.

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Regents to submit an annual report to the House and Senate committees on education, the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, and the House and Senate select committee on women and children with the information that was published on the website required by proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:1801; Repeals R.S. 17:1801.1)