

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 821

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Provides for the establishment of the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools within the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:1216 and to repeal R.S. 29:726.5, 726.5.1, and 726.6, relative to school and  
3 nonprofit security; to establish the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools within the  
4 Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice;  
5 to provide for duties, powers, administration, cooperative authority, procurement  
6 authority, data governance, contract and license continuity, and an advisory council;  
7 to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 15:1216 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1216. Louisiana Center for Safe Schools

11 A. The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools, referred to in this Section as the  
12 "center", is hereby established within the Louisiana Commission on Law  
13 Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

14 B. The center shall administer school and nonprofit security programs  
15 formerly provided pursuant to Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

16 C. The center shall do all of the following:

17 (1) Identify and prioritize resources available to improve the safety and  
18 security of schools of this state and nonprofit organizations.

1           (2) Facilitate the collection and dissemination of information on safety  
2           vulnerabilities, safety needs, training standards, best practices, and available funding  
3           programs.

4           (3) Develop, in consultation with the State Board of Elementary and  
5           Secondary Education, a comprehensive statewide school safety framework, including  
6           behavioral threat assessment models and trauma-informed support practices.

7           (4) Assist schools in developing and revising crisis management and  
8           emergency response plans required pursuant to R.S. 17:416.16.

9           (5) Coordinate with the Department of Education and other appropriate state  
10          agencies to ensure awareness of available safety resources and incorporation of best  
11          practices.

12          (6) Provide training and technical assistance to schools, school governing  
13          authorities, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities on issues relating  
14          to school and nonprofit security, including emergency operations planning,  
15          emergency drills, threat assessment, facility security, digital safety, vulnerability  
16          assessments, and hazard mitigation.

17          (7) Facilitate consistent and comprehensive information sharing between  
18          schools, communities, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies to  
19          promote safety and resiliency.

20          (8) Identify and offer training opportunities relating to school resource  
21          officers and other personnel assigned to school and nonprofit security functions.

22          (9) Administer systems and coordinated processes relating to threat  
23          assessment, violence prevention, risk mitigation, suicide prevention and intervention,  
24          emergency preparedness, and response coordination.

25          D. The center may acquire, develop, license, hold, operate, maintain,  
26          administer, and make available systems, platforms, tools, subscriptions, and related  
27          infrastructure reasonably necessary to carry out its duties and may make such  
28          systems available to authorized participants pursuant to agreements consistent with  
29          applicable law.

1           E. The center may enter cooperative agreements, intergovernmental  
2           agreements, cooperative endeavor agreements, contracts, or other lawful  
3           arrangements with public entities or governmental bodies as necessary to carry out  
4           its duties.

5           F. The center may apply for, receive, administer, and implement programs  
6           supported by state, federal, interstate, or other lawful funding sources and may  
7           expend such funds and carry out programmatic requirements consistent with this  
8           Section.

9           G. The center may utilize cooperative or intergovernmental contract vehicles  
10          authorized under state or federal law and existing statewide contracts to acquire  
11          systems and services necessary to implement this Section. All procurements shall  
12          be conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal procurement law.

13          H. The center shall adopt and maintain written policies governing data  
14          management, confidentiality, access controls, authorized participation, and  
15          compliance with applicable state and federal privacy law. Any public records  
16          exemptions applicable to school security plans, critical incident data, or related  
17          security information shall continue to apply to data and systems administered  
18          pursuant to this Section.

19          I. The center may establish and administer emergency notification systems  
20          and anonymous reporting systems to enhance school and nonprofit security.

21          J. The center shall provide an annual report to the governor, the State Board  
22          of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the appropriate legislative committees  
23          regarding the status of school and nonprofit security initiatives and the activities of  
24          the center.

25          K. Nothing in this Section shall supersede the constitutional authority of the  
26          State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

27          L. The center shall coordinate with the Governor's Office of Homeland  
28          Security and Emergency Preparedness regarding school-related critical incident  
29          mapping and emergency response planning.

1           M.(1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Commission on Law  
2           Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice the School and Nonprofit  
3           Security Advisory Council, referred to in this Subsection as the "council".

4           (2) The advisory council shall consist of the following members:

5           (a) The executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law  
6           Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, or his designee.

7           (b) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

8           (c) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.

9           (d) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his  
10          designee.

11          (e) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, or his designee.

12          (f) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his  
13          designee.

14          (g) The executive director of a statewide association of chiefs of police, or  
15          his designee.

16          (h) A representative of a statewide association of school boards, appointed  
17          by that association.

18          (i) A representative of a statewide association of school principals or  
19          superintendents, appointed by that association.

20          (j) The chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice,  
21          or his designee.

22          (k) The chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, or his designee.

23          (l) The executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, or his  
24          designee.

25          (m) The director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and  
26          Emergency Preparedness, or his designee.

27          (3) The council shall elect a chair from among its members in accordance  
28          with rules adopted by the council.

29          (4) A majority of the appointed members constitutes a quorum.

1           (5) The council shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more frequently  
2           as determined by the council.

3           (6) The advisory council shall do all of the following:

4           (a) Review and formally endorse statewide school and nonprofit security  
5           frameworks developed by the center.

6           (b) Adopt formal recommendations regarding interagency coordination,  
7           threat assessment standards, training alignment, emergency preparedness, and  
8           programmatic implementation.

9           (c) Make formal recommendations regarding the establishment, design,  
10           administration, and funding priorities of grant programs relating to school and  
11           nonprofit security.

12           (d) Issue an annual report to the governor and to the legislature regarding  
13           school and nonprofit security initiatives and recommendations of the council.

14           (7) The council shall not enter into contracts, expend funds, procure goods  
15           or services, or promulgate administrative rules. Implementation authority shall  
16           remain with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of  
17           Criminal Justice through the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools.

18           N.(1) The council established pursuant to this Section shall be the successor  
19           entity to the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security previously  
20           created pursuant to R.S. 29:726.5.

21           (2) All powers, duties, functions, records, reports, recommendations, data  
22           studies, pending matters, officers, and other actions of the prior commission are  
23           transferred to and shall continue in effect under the council established by this  
24           Section.

25           Section 2. R.S. 29:726.5, 726.5.1, and 726.6 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

26           Section 3. Any member serving on the Louisiana Commission on School and  
27 Nonprofit Security on the effective date of this Act whose office corresponds to a  
28 membership position established within the School and Nonprofit Security Advisory  
29 Council, established in R.S. 15:1216 as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall continue to

1 serve in that capacity until the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security is  
2 replaced in accordance with R.S. 15:1216.

3 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor, or, if not  
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this act shall become  
7 effective on the day following such approval.

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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 821 Original

2026 Regular Session

McFarland

**Abstract:** Establishes the La. Center for Safe Schools within the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice and the School and Nonprofit Advisory Council.

Present law establishes the La. Center for Safe Schools (the "center") within the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Proposed law recreates the center within the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Proposed law provides for duties and powers of the center, including the following:

- (1) Identifying and prioritizing resources to improve safety in schools.
- (2) Collecting and disseminating information on safety needs, training standards, and funding programs.
- (3) Developing a comprehensive statewide school safety framework.
- (4) Assisting schools in developing crisis management and emergency response plans.
- (5) Coordinating with the Dept. of Education to ensure awareness of safety resources.
- (6) Providing training to schools including emergency operations planning, emergency drills, threat assessment, digital safety, and hazard mitigation.
- (7) Facilitating consistent and comprehensive information sharing between schools.
- (8) Identifying and offering training opportunities.
- (9) Administering systems and coordinating processes relating to threat assessment, violence prevention, risk mitigation, suicide prevention, emergency preparedness, and response coordination.

Proposed law allows the center to acquire platforms and tools and to enter into cooperative agreements to carry out its duties.

Proposed law allows the center to enter into contracts to implement proposed law.

Proposed law allows the center to apply for and implement funding from state, federal, and interstate sources.

Proposed law requires the center to adopt written policies regarding data management and confidentiality except where public records law applies.

Proposed law requires the center to provide an annual report to the governor, State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, and certain legislative committees.

Proposed law establishes the School and Nonprofit Security Advisory Council and lists members to be appointed to the council.

Proposed law provides duties of the council, including the following:

- (1) Reviewing and endorsing statewide school and nonprofit security frameworks.
- (2) Adopting recommendations regarding interagency coordination, threat assessment, training, emergency preparedness, and implementation.
- (3) Making recommendations regarding funding priorities relating to school and nonprofit security.
- (4) Issuing an annual report to the governor and legislature regarding school and nonprofit security.

Proposed law prohibits the council from having policymaking and rulemaking authority, entering into contracts, and procuring goods and services.

Proposed law states that the School and Nonprofit Security Council is the successor entity to the La. Commission on School and Nonprofit Security established by R.S. 29:726.5.

Proposed law repeals present law (R.S. 29:726.5, 726.5.1, and 726.6).

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 15:1216; Repeals R.S. 29:726.5, 726.5.1, and 726.6)