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## DIGEST

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HB 352 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Mack

**Abstract:** Provides relative to behavioral health services for public school students.

Present law prohibits a public school governing authority from denying a student access to medically necessary behavioral health services at school during school hours if requested by the student's parent or legal guardian. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires such governing authorities to adopt and make available to the public policies for the implementation of present law. Proposed law retains present law and further requires each public school governing authority to post its policy on its website and include it in its student handbook.

Present law requires that such policies include that behavioral health services shall be permitted during school hours if the student's guardian presents a behavioral health evaluation performed by an evaluator as well as an assessment and authorized treatment plan performed by a behavioral health provider chosen by the guardian and the evaluation indicates that the services are necessary during school hours to assist the student with behavioral health impairments associated with a medical diagnosis that the evaluator determines are interfering with the student's ability to thrive in the educational setting. Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law prohibits, if supervision of a behavioral health provider providing services to a student is conducted virtually, any student other than the student receiving services from being recorded.

Present law requires each public school governing authority policy to authorize behavioral health services to be provided during any part of the school day, including any and all instructional time in English, reading, mathematics, and science. Proposed law requires, instead of authorizes, such services to be provided at such times and further specifies they be provided in a physical classroom, they be medically necessary, and adds an exception that services are required to be provided outside a physical classroom if it is medically necessary.

Proposed law requires each public school governing authority policy to provide for a school-based service delivery review meeting, defined as a meeting held, either in person or virtually, for the purpose of reviewing the delivery of behavioral health services in the school setting, including the behavioral health provider's role, applicable student plans, classroom expectations, communication, scheduling, and other procedures necessary to support uninterrupted instruction and appropriate coordination with school personnel and the behavioral health provider.

(Amends R.S. 17:173(A)(2)(intro. para.), (c), (e), and (h) and (D); Adds R.S. 17:173(A)(2)(l) and

(B)(9))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add exception to requirement that behavioral health services be provided in a physical classroom, providing that such services are required to be provided outside of the physical classroom if it is medically necessary.
2. Remove prohibition on a board certified behavior analyst virtually supervising a behavior technician administering services. Instead, prohibit any student, other than the student receiving services, from being recorded if supervision is virtual.
3. Remove proposed law definitions of "board certified behavior analyst" and "behavior technician".

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require each public school governing authority to include in its policy provisions requiring school-based service delivery review meetings.
2. Add definition of "school-based service delivery review meeting".