



Proposed law changes the child safety and welfare standards as follows:

- (1) Increases the child-to-staff ratios through the 2026-2027 school year for children ages four and five and provides for child-to-staff ratios for the 2027-2028 school year and subsequent school years.
- (2) Removes references to children under the age of two from the standards and removes the requirement for additional staff for children with special healthcare needs warranting additional care.
- (3) Makes an exception for staffing during transitions between activities.

Proposed law requires all school prekindergarten programs to comply with the child safety and welfare standards. Provides that the Dept. of Education is to monitor activities for compliance with the child safety and welfare standards. Provides for violations of the standards for public and nonpublic prekindergarten programs.

Proposed law provides that public school boards are to consider the closure of public prekindergarten programs with persistent and egregious noncompliance with the standards.

Proposed law provides that the Dept. of Education is to make a recommendation to BESE to close a nonpublic prekindergarten program with persistent and egregious noncompliance with the standards.

Proposed law requires BESE, in consultation with the Nonpublic School Commission, to adopt rules to ensure the health and safety of three-year-old children enrolled in prekindergarten at approved nonpublic elementary schools.

Proposed law provides that certain nonpublic schools approved by the BESE are exempt from the requirements of proposed law as follows:

- (1) Accredited approved schools are exempt if they maintain recognized accreditation, the accrediting standards meet or exceed the child health and safety requirements in proposed law, and the school annually submits a written attestation supporting documentation to the Dept. of Education.
- (2) Nonaccredited, approved schools are exempt if they are annually certified by a BESE-recognized organization as meeting the child health and safety standards in proposed law.
- (3) Provides that any school that loses accreditation or required certification becomes subject to the provisions of proposed law.

Present law defines "camp" as any place or facility operated by any institution, society, agency, corporation, person or persons, or any other group which serves only children five years of age or

older and operates only when school is not in session during the summer months or school holidays. Present law further exempts camps from licensing as an early learning centers (subject to federal daycare regulations) if the children being served by the camp are at least five years old.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the age of children may attend the camp from age five to age three, unless the camp is operated as one of the following:

- (1) Is a tax exempt church or religious organization that operates a Vacation Bible School, Bible Camp, or religious camp for children of any age.
- (2) Is only open after-school or weekend extracurricular, academic, or athletic program.

Proposed law authorizes the BESE to adopt emergency rules to implement proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:11(B), 24.8(A), (B), and (D)(1), 407.33(1) and (5), 407.35(A), and 407.41(A), (B)(2) and (3), and (C); adds R.S. 17:24.8(E) and 407.41(D), (E), and (F))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds exemptions for certain nonpublic schools is they are accredited or certified by BESE.
2. Requires BESE to adopt rules for three-year-olds.
3. Makes technical changes.