

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 an effective date; 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 state Department of Education and other appropriate
10 state agencies to ensure awareness of available safety resources and incorporation
11 of best 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 contracts
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, the House Committee on Education, the
23 Senate Education Committee, the House Committee on the Administration of
24 Criminal Justice, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B regarding the status of
25 school and nonprofit security initiatives and the activities of the center.

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

1 L. The center shall coordinate with the Governor's Office of Homeland
2 Security and Emergency Preparedness, or its successor, regarding school-related
3 critical incident mapping and emergency response planning.

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

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

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

10 (b) The superintendent of the state Department of Education, or his designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (b) Adopt formal recommendations regarding interagency coordination,
10 threat assessment standards, training alignment, emergency preparedness, and
11 programmatic implementation.

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

15 (d) Issue an annual report, no later than July first, to the governor and to the
16 legislature regarding school and nonprofit security initiatives and recommendations
17 of the council.

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

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

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

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

1 Section 3. Any member serving on the Louisiana Commission on School and
 2 Nonprofit Security, whose position corresponds to a position on the School and Nonprofit
 3 Security Advisory Council as created by this Act, shall continue to serve in the same
 4 capacity on the newly created council on the effective date of this Act. All other positions
 5 of the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security shall be eliminated on the
 6 effective date of this Act.

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

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 821 Reengrossed

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 (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 and security 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 state 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 by July first to the governor and certain legislative committees 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 provides that the School and Nonprofit Security Council shall be the successor entity to the La. Commission on School and Nonprofit Security established by present law (R.S. 29:726.5) and provides for the membership of the successor entity.

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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Add the word "state" to the Department of Education.

2. Name the specific legislative committees required to receive copies of the annual report.
3. Require the annual report to be submitted to governor and legislature no later than July first.
4. Require members serving on the La. Commission on School and Nonprofit Security to continue to serve on the newly created School and Nonprofit Security Advisory Council.
5. Eliminate certain positions on the La. Commission on School and Nonprofit Security.
6. Make technical changes.