2026 Regular Session **ENROLLED**

SENATE BILL NO. 488

BY SENATOR EDMONDS AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BROUSSARD, CARLSON, CARVER, TERRY LANDRY, SCHLEGEL AND ST. BLANC

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:416.16.2, relative to school crisis management and response plans; to provide for the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program; to establish eligibility to participate in the pilot program; to provide for administration of the program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:416.16.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§416.16.2. School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program

A.(1) The state Department of Education may establish a School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at each city, parish, and other local public school.

(2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish criteria for participation by each city, parish, and other local public school.

(3) The department may choose a vendor to operate the pilot program and provide the drone response technology.

B. The program shall be conducted as part of the crisis management and response plan in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:416.16.

C. Each city, parish, and other local public school shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program. The department shall select at least one but no more than four schools to participate in the pilot program, based upon a first come, first serve basis.

D. As a condition to participate in the program, a school shall provide school mapping data to the vendor that is chosen by the department to operate a drone safety program, subject to the provisions of R.S. 17:416.16.1. The

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vendor shall enter into a confidentiality agreement with the department, the school, and the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools to provide strict confidentiality with respect to the school's mapping data.

E. The department may accept grants or private funding to establish and operate the pilot program.

F. The vendor that is selected to participate in the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program shall coordinate with the state Department of Education, Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association with respect to the drone operational training procedures related to responding to school safety incidents. The coordination shall be used to enhance deconfliction and situational awareness and ensure that compliance with all applicable law enforcement training procedures are fulfilled in a unified emergency response effort among state and local law enforcement officials and other first responders.

G. Beginning December 31, 2027, the department shall submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education as to the findings and effectiveness of the pilot program.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

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