SLS 20RS-388

ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 171

BY SENATOR MIZELL

BUS DRIVERS. Requires school bus operators to be certified in CPR and first aid. (gov sig)

| 1 | AN ACT |
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| 2 | To amend and reenact R.S. 17:491(A) and 497.4, relative to school bus operators; to require |
| 3 | school bus operators to be certified in CPR and first aid; and to provide for related |
| 4 | matters. |
| 5 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: |
| 6 | Section 1. R.S. 17:491(A) and 497.4 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as |
| 7 | follows: |
| 8 | §491. Definitions |
| 9 | A.(1) As used in this Subpart, the term "school bus operator" means any |
| 10 | employee of any city, parish, or other local public school board whose duty it is to |
| 11 | transport students in any board school bus or activity bus to and from any school of |
| 12 | suitable grade approved by the state Department of Education or to and from any |
| 13 | school-related activity. |
| 14 | (2) Such employee shall be: |
| 15 | (a) Be certified to have participated in any \underline{a} school bus operators |
| 16 | instructional program or in-service training provided by the state Department of |
| 17 | Education as provided for in R.S. 17:497.4, shall have. |

Page 1 of 3 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

| 1 | (b) Have attained the age of twenty-one years, and shall be. |
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| 2 | (c) Be certified to have passed any physical examination required by the |
| 3 | department. |
| 4 | (d) Hold current CPR and first aid certificates that are in compliance |
| 5 | with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. |
| 6 | (3) It shall be unlawful for anyone not certified as provided in this Subsection |
| 7 | to transport school students to and from any such school. |
| 8 | * * * |
| 9 | §497.4. Training and certification; school bus operators; training sessions |
| 10 | Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the state |
| 11 | Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Elementary and |
| 12 | Secondary Education, shall develop and implement a program for the training and |
| 13 | certification of school bus operators for the purpose of increasing the number of |
| 14 | certified school bus operators in the state. The program shall include training |
| 15 | sessions of at least two days each to be held throughout the state which shall be |
| 16 | conducted by certified instructors as selected by the department. The program shall |
| 17 | include sessions that will qualify participants to obtain CPR and first aid |
| 18 | certifications or recertifications that are in compliance with the requirements |
| 19 | of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The number, dates, |
| 20 | frequency, and locations of such training sessions shall be determined by the |
| 21 | department which shall be responsible for disseminating all information relative to |
| 22 | such training sessions to each city and parish school system, in a timely fashion. |
| 23 | Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not |
| 24 | signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature |
| 25 | by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If |
| 26 | vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become |
| 27 | effective on the day following such approval. |

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

SB 171 Original

DIGEST 2020 Regular Session

Mizell

<u>Present law</u> defines school bus operator as an employee certified to have participated in a school bus operators instructional program or in-service training provided by the state Department of Education (DOE), be at least 21 years of age, and certified to have passed any physical exam required by DOE. <u>Present law</u> further provides that it shall be unlawful for anyone not certified to those stipulations to transport school students to and from any such school.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and further requires a school bus operator to hold current CPR and first aid certificates that are in compliance with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

<u>Present law</u> requires the DOE to develop and implement a program for training and certifying school bus operators.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and further requires the DOE training program to include sessions that will qualify participants to obtain CPR and first aid certifications or recertifications that are in compliance with OSHA requirements.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:491(A) and 497.4)