HLS 25RS-807 ORIGINAL

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 225

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BY REPRESENTATIVE BROWN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS: Authorizes public school personnel to conduct weapon screenings of students upon entry onto a school campus

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416.3(A)(2), (C)(1)(a) and (2)(a), and (D)(1), relative to
3	screenings of public school students; to authorize screenings of students upon initial
4	entry onto a school campus; to authorize screenings of public school students during
5	extracurricular and cocurricular activities; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 17:416.3(A)(2), (C)(1)(a) and (2)(a), and (D)(1) are hereby amended
8	and reenacted to read as follows:
9	§416.3. Search of students' persons, desks, lockers, other areas; defense of suits
10	against school personnel; indemnification; reporting of implements seized
11	A.
12	* * *
13	(2)(a) The A local school board may require students to be subject to a
14	security screening upon initial entry onto a school campus during a school day for
15	the purpose of weapon detection. Such screening may include the following:
16	(i) Each student being required to go through a metal detector or other
17	weapon detection system.
18	(ii) A manual search or electronic scan of each student's personal effects,
19	including but not limited to his backpack and lunch bag.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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2	the board. A screening upon initial entry as authorized by Subparagraph (a) of this
3	Paragraph shall not be construed to be the search of an individual person.
4	(c) During a school day, or an extracurricular or cocurricular activity located
5	on a school campus, any teacher, principal, school security guard, or administrator
6	may search the person of a student or his personal effects when, based on the
7	attendant circumstances at the time of the search, there are reasonable grounds to
8	suspect that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated the law, a
9	school rule, or a school board policy. Such a search shall be conducted in a manner
10	that is reasonably related to the purpose of the search and not excessively intrusive
11	in light of the age or sex of the student and the nature of the suspected offense.
12	(b) (d) Random searches with a metal detector of students or their personal
13	effects may be conducted at any time, provided they are conducted without
14	deliberate touching of the student.
15	* * *
16	C.(1)(a) On or before January 1, 1995, each Each parish and city school
17	board shall adopt a policy that is consistent with Subsection A of this Section to
18	provide for reasonable search and seizure by public school teachers, principals, and
19	other school administrators of students' persons, desks, lockers, or other school areas
20	for evidence that the law, a school rule, or a parish or city school board policy has
21	been violated.
22	* * *
23	(2)(a) Nothing in this Section shall require defense and/or or indemnification
24	by a school board, a principal, or other school administrator for suits regarding
25	search and seizure unless such acts are in accordance with the policy adopted by the
26	school board that employs him, if the policy is declared to be reasonable by a court
27	of competent jurisdiction.
28	* * *

(b) The lack of a screening shall not result in the imposition of liability on

D.(1) Upon the seizure by any public school teacher, principal, school security guard, or administrator of any firearm, bomb, knife, or other implement which can be used as a weapon and the careless use of which might inflict harm or injury or any controlled dangerous substance as defined in R.S. 40:961(7) 40:961, the principal or his designated administrator shall report the confiscation of such implement or material to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The principal or his designated administrator may report the confiscation of any other implement or material.

* * *

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)]

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Abstract: Authorizes search of students upon initial entry onto public school campuses.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes any public school teacher, principal, school security guard, or administrator to search any desk, locker, building, area, or grounds for evidence that the law, a school rule, or parish or city school board policy was violated. <u>Proposed law</u> retains present law.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the same persons to search the person of a student or his personal effects when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a search will reveal evidence that the student violated the law, a school rule, or a school board policy. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and authorizes such searches during an extracurricular or cocurricular activity.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes a public school board to require each student to go through a screening upon initial entry onto campus during a school day.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.3(A)(2), (C)(1)(a) and (2)(a), and (D)(1))