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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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DIGEST

SB 450 Original 2026 Regular Session Edmonds

Present law requires any school employee who learns of a threat of violence or terrorism to immediately report the threat to local law enforcement and, if applicable, the school administrator. Present law also provides for immunity from liability for such reporting, except in cases of malicious or intentional false reporting.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires local law enforcement agencies to report certain information regarding threats of violence or terrorism to the La. Fusion Center (fusion center) within seven calendar days. Proposed law provides that such reports include limited data such as the date, type, and disposition of the threat and do not include personally identifiable information. Proposed law further requires the fusion center to use the threat reports to collect data and analytics of threats of violence and terrorism for future preparedness.

Present law provides immunity from liability for individuals who report threats to local law enforcement.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that no cause of action shall arise against a local law enforcement agency for failure to report a threat to the fusion center within the required time period. Proposed law defines the "La. Fusion Center" as part of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police.

Proposed law establishes a framework for physical security school assessments (assessments) to be conducted by the fusion center. Proposed law requires the fusion center, beginning Jan. 1, 2027, to conduct assessments of each public elementary and secondary school once every three years, according to a schedule set by the fusion center. Proposed law authorizes nonpublic and charter schools to request such assessments.

Proposed law provides that a physical security school assessments conducted by the fusion center shall be provided at no cost to the schools.

Proposed law provides for definitions, scope, and required components of assessments, including the use of CPTED principles and best practices. Proposed law requires the fusion center to provide written reports with findings and nonbinding proposals for security upgrades (options for consideration) to school officials.

Proposed law specifies that implementation of upgrades is optional and not required.

Proposed law provides that physical security school assessments and related materials are subject to public records law exemptions and establishes that such materials are confidential, privileged, and generally not subject to discovery or admissibility in civil or administrative proceedings.

Proposed law provides immunity from liability for schools, school systems, governing authorities, the fusion center, and related personnel for actions or omissions related to the assessments or decisions regarding implementation of recommendations. Proposed law further provides that such assessments do not create a legal duty or standard of care and do not establish an independent cause of action.

Proposed law provides a limited exception allowing a school or governing authority to introduce an assessment into evidence as a defense in civil and administrative proceedings.

Proposed law provides that substantial compliance with assessment recommendations creates a rebuttable presumption that the school property was not unreasonably dangerous and that reasonable care was exercised as it relates to the school security.

Present law provides that the Gov.'s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is directed to provide for grants and funding for security enhancements at eligible schools. Present law provides that eligible applicants include public elementary and secondary schools and approved nonpublic schools. Present law authorizes grants for security measures such as facility hardening, surveillance systems, access control, and other safety improvements. Present law provides for the administration of the program, including application procedures, prioritization of funding, and permissible uses of funds, as determined by the administering agency.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that schools may seek grant funding under present law to implement safety enhancements that are recommended in physical security school assessments. Proposed law provides that school security grant funding is to be prioritized to fund schools seeking to implement findings or options for consideration identified in the physical security school assessments.

Present law exempts certain public records from disclosure.

Proposed law retains present law and expands such exemptions to explicitly include physical security school assessments.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:409.3(A) and (C), R.S. 29:726.6(B)(2), and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(9); adds R.S. 17:409.3(D) and (E) and 416.16.2)