

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 450

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

SCHOOLS. Requires mandatory reporting of school threats and provides for physical security school assessments for K-12 schools. (8/1/26)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:409.3(A) and (C), R.S. 29:726.6(B)(2), and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(9) and to enact R.S. 17:409.3(D) and (E) and 416.16.2, relative to school safety; to provide for mandatory reporting of certain threats of violence or terrorism; to provide for physical security school assessments of certain elementary and secondary schools; to provide with respect to public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools; to provide for options of consideration; to provide for confidentiality; to provide for limitation of liability; to provide with respect to the admissibility of certain evidence; to provide with respect to grant programs for security measures; to provide with respect to confidentiality of certain public records; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:409.3(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:409.3(D) and (E) and 416.16.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§409.3. Mandatory reporting **of threats of violence or threats of terrorism**

A.**(1)** Any administrator, teacher, counselor, bus operator, or other school employee, whether full-time or part-time, who learns of a threat of violence or threat

1 of terrorism, whether through oral communication, written communication, or
2 electronic communication, shall immediately report the threat to a local law
3 enforcement agency and, if the employee is not the school administrator, to the
4 school administrator.

5 **(2) A local law enforcement agency that receives a threat report pursuant**
6 **to this Section, shall report the threat to the Louisiana Fusion Center within**
7 **seven calendar days of receiving the threat. The report to the fusion center shall**
8 **not include personally identifiable information for any student or for any**
9 **person who reported the threat to law enforcement. The report to the fusion**
10 **center shall only include information relative to the date of the threat, the type**
11 **of threat reported, whether the threat was substantiated, and whether any**
12 **arrests were made relative to the threat.**

13 **(3) The fusion center shall use the threat reports to collect data and**
14 **analytics of threats of violence and terrorism for future preparedness.**

15 * * *

16 C.**(1)** No person shall have a cause of action against any person for any action
17 taken or statement made in adherence with the requirement for reporting as provided
18 in this Subpart. However, the immunity from liability provided in this Subsection
19 shall not apply to any action or statement if the action or statement was maliciously,
20 willfully, and deliberately intended to cause harm to, harass, or otherwise deceive
21 law enforcement or school officials.

22 **(2) No person shall have a cause of action against any local law**
23 **enforcement agency for not reporting the threat to the fusion center within**
24 **seven calendar days of receiving the threat.**

25 **D. As used in this Section, "Louisiana Fusion Center" or "fusion center"**
26 **means the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police,**
27 **Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange.**

28 **E. Reports made to the fusion center are records of a law enforcement**
29 **agency and are, therefore, not subject to disclosure pursuant to R.S. 43:3.**

* * *

§416.16.2. Physical security school assessments; reports

A.(1) Each public elementary and secondary school in each city, parish, and other local public school district may obtain a physical security school assessment upon a request made to the fusion center.

(2) No assessment of a school may be conducted more than once every three years at each elementary or secondary public school, according to a schedule approved by the fusion center.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the fusion center shall be required to conduct physical security school assessments only within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this purpose and only to the extent that personnel and resources are available for this purpose.

(4) A nonpublic school or charter school may obtain a physical security school assessment upon a request made to the fusion center.

(5) The state Department of Education shall advise all elementary and secondary schools of the availability of physical security school assessments.

(6) The fusion center may include in its schedule of assessments available time slots for which requested assessments may be conducted at nonpublic schools or charter schools.

(7) The assessment by the fusion center shall be conducted at no costs to the school, the school district, or the school's governing authority.

B. For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Fusion center" shall have the same meaning as defined in R.S. 17:409.3.

(2) "Options for consideration" means nonbinding upgrades that are identified during a physical security school assessment that are intended to assist school officials in evaluating potential actions to enhance campus safety

1 and security.

2 (3) "Physical security school assessment" or "assessment" means a site
3 visit conducted by the fusion center and any report based upon such visit that
4 is produced for the purpose of identifying safety or security vulnerabilities at
5 an elementary or secondary school in order to identify ways to enhance the
6 school's safety and security. The written report of the assessment shall include
7 options for consideration.

8 C. The assessments shall include but not be limited to the following:

9 (1) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
10 principles.

11 (2) Best practices from local, state, and federal partners in the
12 assessment process.

13 D. Upon completion of the assessment, the fusion center shall provide a
14 written report of its findings and options for consideration to the school's
15 emergency response coordinator and the principal. The findings in the written
16 report shall be aligned with state building codes and any safety rules adopted
17 by the state fire marshal in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

18 E.(1) No school shall be required to implement or complete the options
19 for consideration included in the assessment provided by the fusion center in its
20 findings.

21 (2) A school that concurs with the fusion center's findings and options for
22 consideration may apply for grants under R.S. 29:726.6 to help defray the cost
23 of any security enhancements identified in the written report of the physical
24 security school assessment.

25 F. Physical security school assessments and all related reports, findings,
26 options for consideration, and any communications connected therewith, shall
27 be subject to R.S. 44:1 and 44:3.

28 G.(1) The findings or options for consideration contained in a physical
29 security school assessment are advisory only and shall not create a legal duty or

1 standard of care. However, nothing in this Subsection is intended to prohibit the
2 use of a physical security school assessment as a defense as authorized in
3 Subsection J of this Section.

4 (2) No cause of action shall arise and no liability shall be imposed upon
5 any school, school district, charter school, nonpublic school, school governing
6 authority, the Louisiana Fusion Center, or any employee of the school, school
7 district, school governing authority, or the fusion center for any act or omission
8 relating to a school's decision to obtain, accept, reject, modify, delay, or decline
9 to implement any finding, option for consideration contained in, or related to,
10 a physical security school assessment.

11 H. The reports, findings, conclusions, or any portion of a physical
12 security school assessment, including any options for consideration or other
13 provision of the assessment or any communication related thereto, shall be
14 deemed confidential and privileged communication and shall not be:

15 (1) Subject to discovery, subpoena, or other compelled production in any
16 civil action or administrative proceeding.

17 (2) Admitted into evidence by the petitioner or intervener to establish a
18 standard of care, duty, or breach thereof in any civil action or administrative
19 proceeding. However, nothing in this Subsection is intended to prohibit the use
20 of a physical security school assessment as a defense as authorized in Subsection
21 J of this Section.

22 I. The immunity and confidentiality protections afforded by this Section
23 shall apply regardless of whether a school elects to seek, adopt, or decline any
24 provisions contained in a physical security school assessment or any option for
25 consideration.

26 J.(1)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, only the
27 school, school board, or school governing authority may offer into evidence the
28 physical security school assessment for the purposes of establishing a defense
29 against a cause of action for negligence or a breach of duty in a civil proceeding.

1 The school, school board, or school governing authority may introduce the
2 assessment in a summary proceeding or an ordinary civil proceeding.

3 (b) If the cause of action against the school is alleging an unsafe condition
4 on school property, a school, school board, or governing authority may elect to
5 introduce into evidence only that portion of the physical security school
6 assessment that is a defense against the alleged unsafe condition.

7 (2) A school's substantial compliance with the findings, options for
8 consideration, or standards identified in the assessment shall create a rebuttable
9 presumption that the school property was not unreasonably dangerous and that
10 the school exercised reasonable care with respect to the school's physical
11 security and safety.

12 (3) Evidence of actions taken by the school in reliance on, or in response
13 to, such assessment shall be admissible as a defense for the purpose of
14 demonstrating due diligence, reasonable care, and the absence of negligence.

15 K. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to impose a higher duty of
16 care upon a school, school board, or school governing authority than that which
17 is otherwise provided by law, nor be construed to create an independent cause
18 of action.

19 Section 2. R.S. 29:726.6(B)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

20 §726.6. Fund and grant program for security measures; eligible applicants

21 * * *

22 B. * * *

23 (2) Eligible schools include public elementary or secondary schools in a city,
24 parish, or other local public school district or other political subdivision and
25 nonpublic schools approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
26 Education pursuant to R.S. 17:11. Grant funding shall be prioritized for schools
27 seeking funds to implement any of the findings or options for consideration
28 identified in the written reports of physical security school assessments,
29 pursuant to R.S. 17:416.16.2.

1 * * *
2 Section 3. R.S. 44:4.1(B)(9) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

3 §4.1. Exceptions

4 * * *
5 B. The legislature further recognizes that there exist exceptions, exemptions,
6 and limitations to the laws pertaining to public records throughout the revised
7 statutes and codes of this state. Therefore, the following exceptions, exemptions, and
8 limitations are hereby continued in effect by incorporation into this Chapter by
9 citation:

10 * * *
11 (9) R.S. 17:7.2, 46, 47, 81.9, 391.4, 407.28, 407.47, 407.65, 416.16.1,
12 **416.16.2**, 500.2, 1175, 1202, 1237, 1252, 1948, 1989.7, 2047, 2048.31, 3099, 3100.8,
13 3136, 3137, 3138.12, 3390, 3703, 3773, 3884

14 * * *
15 Section 4. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any public school district
16 to build or renovate any school building in violation of Article III, Section 12 of the
17 Constitution of Louisiana which prohibits the enactment of local and special laws that
18 require the repair or building of parish or city schoolhouses or the raising of money for such
19 purposes.

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)]

DIGEST

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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 authorizes public elementary and secondary schools in each city, parish, and other local public school district to obtain a physical security school assessment upon a request made to the fusion center.

Proposed law prohibits assessments from being conducted more than once every three years at each elementary or secondary public school, according to a schedule approved by the fusion center.

Proposed law requires the fusion center to conduct physical security school assessments only within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this purpose and only to the extent that personnel and resources are available for this purpose.

Proposed law authorizes nonpublic and charter schools to request such assessments.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education to advise all elementary and secondary schools of the availability of physical security school 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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Remove requirement that the fusion center, beginning Jan. 1, 2027, conduct assessments of each public elementary and secondary school.
2. Remove requirement that the fusion center advise nonpublic schools and charter schools of the availability of assessments.
3. Authorize public elementary and secondary schools in each city, parish, and other local public school district to obtain an assessment upon a request made to the fusion center.
4. Require the fusion center to conduct physical security school assessments only within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for this purpose and only to the extent that personnel and resources are available for this purpose.
5. Require the state Dept. of Education to advise all elementary and secondary schools of the availability of assessments.
6. Make technical changes.