
DIGEST

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Hoffmann

HB No. 705

Abstract: Provides relative to the manner and frequency of a school employee having to report certain communication that is made to a student at that school or is received by the employee from a student at that school using a means other than one provided by or made available by the school system.

Relative to policies, procedures, and practices of a public elementary or secondary school governing authority for the reporting of electronic communication between an employee at a school and a student enrolled at that school:

Present law (R.S. 17:81(Q)(2)(c)) provides that when such communication is made using a means other than one provided by or made available by the school system, the employee shall report it in a manner deemed appropriate by the school's governing authority. Specifies that records of such reported communication shall be maintained by the governing authority for a period of at least one year.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law, relative to the manner and frequency of reporting required by R.S. 17:81(Q)(2)(c), additionally provides that the governing authority may authorize a school principal (or designee) to permit an employee at the school to contact one or more specifically identified students enrolled at the school and be contacted by such student or students provided the employee has obtained permission from the principal (or designee) to do so and has provided documentation in writing stating the purpose or purposes for such contact. Provides that such purposes may include (but need not be limited to) necessary communication relative to extracurricular activities, student athletic activities, community-based youth activities such as scouting, and faith-based activities such as a youth group sponsored by a religious organization.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:81(Q)(2)(c))