
DIGEST

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Hodges

HB No. 236

Abstract: Provides relative to guidelines and teaching materials for Internet and cell phone safety instruction in public schools.

Present law requires public schools, beginning in third grade, to provide instruction regarding child Internet safety. Proposed law requires public schools to provide age and grade appropriate classroom instruction regarding Internet and cell phone safety, which shall be incorporated into an existing course of study and for which the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) shall prescribe teaching materials. Such instruction shall include but need not be limited to providing students with information, with respect to both cell phones and the Internet, on the following:

- (1) Safe and responsible use of social networking websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of electronic communication.
- (2) Risks of transmitting personal information.
- (3) Recognizing, avoiding, and reporting electronic solicitations by sexual predators.
- (4) Recognizing and reporting illegal activities and communications.
- (5) Recognizing and reporting harassment and cyberbullying.
- (6) Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications.
- (7) Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music, and video.

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education to provide to public schools materials for parents regarding Internet safety. Proposed law instead requires public school governing authorities to provide teaching materials regarding Internet and cell phone safety to parents and legal guardians. Proposed law is applicable to all public elementary and secondary schools, including charter schools.

(Amends R.S. 17:280; Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(30))