

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 236

BY REPRESENTATIVES HODGES, BARROW, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH, ST.
GERMAIN, AND THIERRY AND SENATORS BROOME AND PETERSON

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:280 and to enact R.S. 17:3996(B)(30), relative to instruction in public schools regarding Internet and cell phone safety; to provide relative to guidelines and teaching materials for such instruction; to provide for limitation of liability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:280 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3996(B)(30) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§280. Internet and cell phone safety education; required ~~course~~ instruction

~~A. All public elementary schools, beginning in the third grade, and secondary public schools shall provide~~ The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school shall provide age and grade appropriate classroom instruction for educating children regarding child Internet and cell phone safety. Such instruction shall be integrated into an existing course of study and shall include but need not be limited to providing students with information on the following with respect to both cell phones and the Internet:

(1) The 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 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.

B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe suitable teaching materials for instruction.

C. ~~The department~~ Each public school governing authority shall provide to each public school educational teaching materials for parents regarding child Internet and cell phone safety to parents and legal guardians.

D. No person shall have a cause of action against any school district, school, or school employee based on any statement made or action taken, or by the omission of any statement or action, regarding instruction required by this Section. The immunity from liability established in this Subsection shall not apply to any statement or action by a school employee that is maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause bodily harm to a student or to harass or intimidate a student.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

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1 (30) Teaching regarding Internet and cell phone safety, R.S. 17:280.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____