
DIGEST

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Thompson

HB No. 659

Abstract: Provides relative to reporting, instructional, and other requirements for school employees, school governing authorities, and schools.

Reporting requirements

Required physical activity in schools

Present law requires certain public schools to provide daily physical activity for students. Requires each school to report to its school board, and each school board to report to the state board, annually relative to compliance with present law. Proposed law deletes this reporting requirement.

Examinations (sight, hearing, dyslexia)

Present law provides for student examinations relative to sight, hearing, and dyslexia. Requires school boards to submit a written report of all such examinations to the state superintendent. Proposed law deletes this reporting requirement.

Denial of meals to students

Present law provides procedures with respect to denying meals to students, including requiring documentation. Requires the governing authority of each public elementary school to report annually to the state superintendent and the House and Senate education committees relative to documented instances of such denials. Proposed law deletes this reporting requirement and instead requires that such documentation be provided upon request to the state superintendent, such committees, or the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Legislative Academic Achievement Award

Present law requires school boards to submit to the House Speaker and Senate President a list of high school students who have attained a certain grade point average so that certain students may receive the Legislative Academic Achievement Award. Requires recognition of an award recipient with a certificate and authorizes presentation of such certificate by area legislators at the recipient's school. Proposed law repeals present law.

Instruction

Safe Haven law

Present law requires at least 30 minutes of instruction on the state's safe haven relinquishments law to be provided each school year to high school students enrolled in Health Education. Proposed law retains the requirement that this instruction be provided, broadens the applicability of the requirement to all high school students (not just those enrolled in such course), and deletes the requirements relative to the minimum number of minutes of instruction and that the instruction be provided each school year.

Adoption awareness

Present law, for public high schools, requires adoption awareness instruction in Health Education or any other course the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) deems appropriate, provided such course is a prerequisite for graduation. Present law requires such instruction for nonpublic high schools in a manner that is the sole discretion of the principal. Proposed law, for both public and nonpublic high schools, requires such instruction in a manner that is deemed appropriate by the principal and does not require that it be provided in any particular course.

Parenthood education

Present law requires that all public high schools offering home economics programs provide instruction in parenthood education for at least one semester in accordance with the course of study and materials prescribed by BESE. Proposed law removes the requirements relative to the minimum duration of instruction and that the course of study and materials be BESE-prescribed.

Kindness to dumb animals

Present law authorizes BESE to provide for the teaching of kindness to dumb animals in public schools. Proposed law deletes present law.

Parent orientation

Present law requires completion of a parent orientation program of least three hours by the parent of any child entering public school for the first time. Proposed law removes the requirement relative to the minimum duration of the program.

Bullying

Present law requires each public school governing authority to create a program to provide at least four hours of training each year for all school employees, including bus drivers, with respect to bullying. Proposed law applies a four-hour requirement only to new employees, provides an annual two-hour requirement for other school employees, and provides that only employees who have contact with students are subject to any such training requirements.

Present law requires that in an investigation of bullying, before a student under the age of 18 is interviewed, his parent or guardian shall be notified and have the opportunity to attend. Proposed law provides that the student may be interviewed after three failed attempts to reach the parents or guardians in a 48-hour period.

Teacher bill of rights

Present law provides for a teacher bill of rights, including the right to be free from excessively burdensome disciplinary paperwork. Proposed law modifies this right to grant teachers the right to complete only paperwork that is not excessively burdensome and that, if required by law or regulation, adheres to the law or regulation and does not result in overly cumbersome interpretations of that law or regulation; grants teachers the additional right to be afforded time during the school day or week to collaborate with other teachers.

(Amends R.S. 17:17.1(A), 81(R)(1), 192.1(C), 235.1(B)(1), 263, 279(A), 416.13(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (b)(intro. para.) and (D)(intro. para.) and (3)(intro. para.) and (d)(iii), 416.18(A)(8), and 2112(A)(3); Adds R.S. 17:416.18(A)(10); Repeals R.S. 17:177 and 266)