

2015 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 255

BY SENATORS MORRELL, APPEL AND PETERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES  
ADAMS, WESLEY BISHOP, GISCLAIR AND PATRICK WILLIAMS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides relative to sexual assault on college campuses. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3351(H) and Part XII of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised

3 Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:3399.11 through 3399.16, relative to

4 sexual assault on campuses of postsecondary institutions; to provide for the general

5 powers, duties, and functions of postsecondary management boards; to require

6 annual anonymous sexual assault climate surveys to be conducted; to provide for

7 procedures; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:3351(H) and Part XII of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana

10 Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:3399.11 through 3399.16, are hereby enacted

11 to read as follows:

12 §3351. General powers, duties, and functions of college and university boards

13 \* \* \*

14 **H.(1)(a) When funding is made available, each public postsecondary**

15 **institution shall administer an annual, anonymous sexual assault climate survey**

16 **to its students.**

17 **(b) Participation in the sexual assault climate survey shall be voluntary.**

1 No student shall be required or coerced to participate in the survey and shall  
 2 face no retribution or negative consequence of any kind for declining to  
 3 participate.

4 (c) The Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary  
 5 education management boards, shall develop the survey and establish  
 6 procedures for the administration of the survey and shall use the survey  
 7 developed by the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at the  
 8 Rutgers University School of Social Work as a model.

9 (2) Each public postsecondary institution shall:

10 (a) Administer the survey to students who choose to participate.

11 (b) Report school-specific results of the survey to the Board of Regents.

12 (3) The Board of Regents shall:

13 (a) Submit a written report not later than September first of each year  
 14 regarding the survey results of each public postsecondary institution and the  
 15 state as a whole to the governor and the Senate and House of Representatives  
 16 committees on education for the previous academic year.

17 (b) Publish the survey results on the board's website and in any other  
 18 location or venue the board deems necessary or appropriate.

19 (4) The provisions of this Subsection shall be implemented as  
 20 expeditiously and to the maximum extent possible utilizing any and all available  
 21 funding sources, including funding provided by the legislature.

22 \* \* \*

23 PART XII. CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFETY

24 §3399.11. Short Title

25 This Part may be referred to as the Campus Accountability and Safety  
 26 Act.

27 §3399.12. Scope

28 Each public postsecondary institution in this state that receives any Title  
 29 IV funding from the United States Department of Education shall be subject to

1 all the provisions of this Part.

2 §3399.13. Definitions

3 For the purposes of this Part, the following terms shall have the following  
4 meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 (1) "Institution" means a postsecondary institution as defined in R.S.  
6 17:3399.12.

7 (2) "President" means the president of the system of the respective  
8 institution.

9 (3) "Sexually-oriented criminal offense" includes any sexual assault  
10 offense as defined in R.S. 44:51 and any sexual abuse offense as defined in R.S.  
11 14:403.

12 (4) "Title IX coordinator" means the individual designated as a  
13 responsible employee in Section 106.8(a) of Title 34, Code of Federal  
14 Regulations, as such section is in effect on the date of enactment of this Part.

15 §3399.14. Coordination with local law enforcement

16 A. Each institution and law enforcement and criminal justice agency  
17 located within the parish of the campus of the institution shall enter into a  
18 memorandum of understanding to clearly delineate responsibilities and share  
19 information in accordance with applicable federal and state confidentiality laws,  
20 including but not limited to trends about sexually-oriented criminal offenses  
21 occurring against students of the institution.

22 B. The Board of Regents' Uniform Policy on Sexual Assault shall require  
23 that the memorandum of understanding, as described in Subsection A of this  
24 Section, be updated every two years.

25 C. Each memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to this  
26 Part shall include:

27 (1) Delineation and sharing protocols of investigative responsibilities.

28 (2) Protocols for investigations, including standards for notification and  
29 communication and measures to promote evidence preservation.

1           **(3) Agreed upon training and requirements for the parties to the**  
2           **memorandum of understanding on issues related to sexually-oriented criminal**  
3           **offenses for the purpose of sharing information and coordinating training to the**  
4           **extent possible.**

5           **(4) A method of sharing general information about sexually-oriented**  
6           **criminal offenses occurring within the jurisdiction of the parties to the**  
7           **memorandum of understanding in order to improve campus safety.**

8           **D. The local law enforcement agency shall include information on its**  
9           **police report regarding the status of the alleged victim as a student at an**  
10           **institution as defined in this Part.**

11           **E. The institution shall not be held liable if the local law enforcement**  
12           **agency refuses to enter into a memorandum of understanding as required by**  
13           **this Section.**

14           **§3399.15. Campus security policy**

15           **The Board of Regents shall establish uniform policies and best practices**  
16           **to implement measures to address the reporting of sexually-oriented criminal**  
17           **offenses on postsecondary campuses, the prevention of such crimes, and the**  
18           **medical and mental health care needed for these alleged victims that includes**  
19           **the following:**

20           **A.(1) Confidential advisors. The institution shall designate individuals**  
21           **who shall serve as confidential advisors, such as health care staff, clergy, staff**  
22           **of a women's center, or other such categories. Such designation shall not**  
23           **preclude the institution from partnering with national, state, or local victim**  
24           **services organizations to serve as confidential advisors or to serve in other**  
25           **confidential roles.**

26           **(2) The confidential advisor shall complete the training requirements as**  
27           **provided in this Part.**

28           **(3) Not later than January 1, 2016, the attorney general in collaboration**  
29           **with the Board of Regents, shall develop online training materials, in addition**

1 to the training required under this Part, for the training of confidential  
2 advisors.

3 (4) The confidential advisor shall inform the alleged victim of the  
4 following:

5 (a) The rights of the alleged victim under federal and state law and the  
6 policies of the institution.

7 (b) The alleged victim's reporting options, including the option to notify  
8 the institution, the option to notify local law enforcement, and any other  
9 reporting options.

10 (c) If reasonably known, the potential consequences of the reporting  
11 options provided in this Part.

12 (d) The process of investigation and disciplinary proceedings of the  
13 institution.

14 (e) The process of investigation and adjudication of the criminal justice  
15 system.

16 (f) That the institutional student disciplinary proceeding has limited  
17 jurisdiction, scope, and available sanctions, and should not be considered a  
18 substitute for the criminal justice process.

19 (g) Potential reasonable accommodations that the institution may  
20 provide to an alleged victim.

21 (h) The name and location of the nearest medical facility where an  
22 alleged victim may have a rape kit administered by an individual trained in  
23 sexual assault forensic medical examination and evidence collection, and  
24 information on transportation options and available reimbursement for a visit  
25 to such facility.

26 (5) The confidential advisor may, as appropriate, serve as a liaison  
27 between an alleged victim and the institution or local law enforcement, when  
28 directed to do so in writing by an alleged victim who has been fully and  
29 accurately informed about what procedures shall occur if information is shared,

1 and assist an alleged victim in contacting and reporting to a responsible  
2 employee or local law enforcement.

3 (6) The confidential advisor shall be authorized by the institution to liaise  
4 with appropriate staff at the institution to arrange reasonable accommodations  
5 through the institution to allow the alleged victim to change living arrangements  
6 or class schedules, obtain accessibility services, or arrange other  
7 accommodations.

8 (7) The confidential advisor shall be authorized to accompany the alleged  
9 victim, when requested to do so by the alleged victim, to interviews and other  
10 proceedings of a campus investigation and institutional disciplinary  
11 proceedings.

12 (8) The confidential advisor shall advise the alleged victim of, and  
13 provide written information, regarding both the alleged victim's rights and the  
14 institution's responsibilities regarding orders of protection, no contact orders,  
15 restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a court of competent  
16 jurisdiction.

17 (9) The confidential advisor shall not be obligated to report crimes to the  
18 institution or law enforcement in a way that identifies an alleged victim or an  
19 accused individual, unless otherwise required to do so by law. The confidential  
20 advisor shall, to the extent authorized under law, provide confidential services  
21 to students. Any requests for accommodations, as provided in Paragraph (6) of  
22 this Subsection, made by a confidential advisor shall not trigger an investigation  
23 by the institution.

24 (10) No later than the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year, the  
25 institution shall appoint an adequate number of confidential advisors. The  
26 Board of Regents shall determine the adequate number of confidential advisors  
27 for an institution, based upon its size, no later than January 1, 2016.

28 (11) Each institution that enrolls fewer than five thousand students may  
29 partner with another institution in their system or region to provide the services

1 described in this Subsection. However, this Paragraph shall not absolve the  
2 institution of its obligations under this Part.

3 **B. Website. The institution shall list on its website:**

4 **(1) The contact information for obtaining a confidential advisor.**

5 **(2) Reporting options for alleged victims of a sexually-oriented criminal**  
6 **offense.**

7 **(3) The process of investigation and disciplinary proceedings of the**  
8 **institution.**

9 **(4) The process of investigation and adjudication of the criminal justice**  
10 **system.**

11 **(5) Potential reasonable accommodations that the institution may**  
12 **provide to an alleged victim.**

13 **(6) The telephone number and website address for a local, state, or**  
14 **national hotline providing information to sexual violence victims, which shall**  
15 **be updated on a timely basis.**

16 **(7) The name and location of the nearest medical facility where an**  
17 **individual may have a rape kit administered by an individual trained in sexual**  
18 **assault forensic medical examination and evidence collection, and information**  
19 **on transportation options and available reimbursement for a visit to such**  
20 **facility.**

21 **C. Online reporting. The institution may provide an online reporting**  
22 **system to collect anonymous disclosures of crimes and track patterns of crime**  
23 **on campus. An individual may submit a confidential report about a specific**  
24 **crime to the institution using the online reporting system. If the institution uses**  
25 **an online reporting system, the online system shall also include information**  
26 **regarding how to report a crime to a responsible employee and law enforcement**  
27 **and how to contact a confidential advisor.**

28 **D. Amnesty policy. The institution shall provide an amnesty policy for**  
29 **any student who reports, in good faith, sexual violence to the institution. Such**

1 student shall not be sanctioned by the institution for a nonviolent student  
2 conduct violation, such as underage drinking, that is revealed in the course of  
3 such a report.

4 E. Training. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Board of Regents, in  
5 coordination with the attorney general and in consultation with state or local  
6 victim services organizations, shall develop a program for training for each  
7 individual who is involved in implementing an institution's student grievance  
8 procedures, including each individual who is responsible for resolving  
9 complaints of reported sex offenses or sexual misconduct policy violations, and  
10 each employee of an institution who has responsibility for conducting an  
11 interview with an alleged victim of a sexually-oriented criminal offense. Each  
12 institution shall ensure that the individuals and employees receive the training  
13 described in this Subsection no later than the beginning of the 2016-2017  
14 academic year.

15 F. Inter-campus transfer policy.

16 (1) The Board of Regents' Uniform Policy on Sexual Assault shall require  
17 that institutions communicate with each other regarding transfer of students  
18 against whom disciplinary action has been taken as a result of a code of conduct  
19 violation relating to sexually-oriented criminal offenses.

20 (2) The Board of Regents' Uniform Policy on Sexual Assault shall require  
21 that institutions withhold transcripts of students seeking a transfer with  
22 pending disciplinary action relative to sexually-oriented criminal offenses, until  
23 such investigation is complete.

24 §3399.16. Nonpublic postsecondary institutions; reporting required

25 Beginning August 1, 2016, every nonpublic postsecondary institution in  
26 the state shall annually submit its campus safety plan to combat sexual  
27 harassment to the Board of Regents.

28 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature



1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 3 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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## DIGEST

SB 255 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Morrell

Proposed law requires that when funding is made available, each public postsecondary institution shall administer an annual, anonymous sexual assault climate survey to its students who choose to participate.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, to develop the survey and establish procedures for the administration of the survey and use the survey developed by the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at the Rutgers University School of Social Work as a model.

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary institution to:

- (1) Administer the survey to students who choose to participate.
- (2) Report school-specific results of the survey to the Board of Regents.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents to:

- (1) Submit a written report not later than September 1st of each year regarding the survey results of each public postsecondary institution and the state as a whole to the governor and the Senate and House of Representatives committees on education for the previous academic year.
- (2) Publish the survey results on the board's website and in any other location or venue the board deems necessary or appropriate.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law be implemented as expeditiously and to the maximum extent possible utilizing any and all available funding sources, including funding provided by the legislature.

Proposed law creates the Campus Accountability and Safety Act.

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary institution that receives any Title IV funding from the U.S. Dept. of Education to comply with proposed law.

Proposed law requires each institution and area law enforcement and criminal justice agency located within the parish to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to clearly delineate responsibilities and share information in accordance with applicable federal and state confidentiality laws, including but not limited to trends about sexually-oriented criminal offenses occurring against students of the institution.

Proposed law requires each institution to update the MOU with each law enforcement agency every two years.

Proposed law requires the MOU to include:

- (1) Delineation and sharing protocols of investigative responsibilities.
- (2) Protocols for investigations, including standards for notification and communication and measures to promote evidence preservation.
- (3) Agreed upon training and requirements for the parties to the MOU on issues related to sexually-oriented criminal offenses for the purpose of sharing information and coordinating training to the extent possible.
- (4) A method of sharing general information about sexually-oriented criminal offenses occurring within the jurisdiction of the parties to the MOU in order to improve campus safety.

Proposed law requires local law enforcement agency to include information on its police report regarding the status of the alleged victim as a student at an institution as defined in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the institution shall not be held liable if the local law enforcement agency refuses to enter into a MOU as required by proposed law.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents to establish uniform policies and best practices to implement measures to address the reporting of sexually-oriented criminal offenses on postsecondary campuses, the prevention of such crimes, and the medical and mental health care needed for these alleged victims that includes the following:

- (1) Confidential advisors. The institution shall designate individuals who shall serve as confidential advisors, such as health care staff, clergy, staff of a women's center, or other such categories. Such designation shall not preclude the institution from partnering with national, state, or local victim services organizations to serve as confidential advisors or to serve in other confidential roles.
  - (a) The confidential advisor shall complete the training requirements as provided in proposed law.
  - (b) Not later than Jan. 1, 2016, the attorney general in collaboration with the Board of Regents shall develop online training materials.
  - (c) The confidential advisor shall inform the alleged victim of the following:
    - (i) The rights of the alleged victim under federal and state law and the policies of the institution.
    - (ii) The alleged victim's reporting options, including the option to notify the institution, the option to notify local law enforcement, and any other reporting options.
    - (iii) If reasonably known, the potential consequences of the reporting options.
    - (iv) The process of investigation and disciplinary proceedings of the institution.
    - (v) The process of investigation and adjudication of the criminal justice system.
    - (vi) That the institutional student disciplinary proceeding has limited jurisdiction, scope, and available sanctions, and should not be considered a substitute for the criminal justice process.

- (vii) Potential reasonable accommodations that the institution may provide to an alleged victim.
  - (viii) The name and location of the nearest medical facility where an alleged victim may have a rape kit administered by an individual trained in sexual assault forensic medical examination and evidence collection, and information on transportation options and available reimbursement for a visit to such facility.
  - (d) The confidential advisor may serve as a liaison between an alleged victim and the institution or local law enforcement, when directed to do so in writing, and assist an alleged victim in contacting and reporting to a postsecondary education responsible employee or local law enforcement.
  - (e) The confidential advisor shall be authorized by the institution to liaise with appropriate staff to arrange reasonable accommodations to allow the alleged victim to change living arrangements or class schedules, obtain accessibility services, or arrange other accommodations.
  - (f) The confidential advisor shall be authorized to accompany the alleged victim to interviews and other proceedings of a campus investigation and institutional disciplinary proceedings.
  - (g) The confidential advisor shall advise the alleged victim of, and provide written information, regarding both the alleged victim's rights and the institution's responsibilities regarding orders of protection, no contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.
  - (h) The confidential advisor shall not be obligated to report crimes to the institution or law enforcement in a way that identifies an alleged victim or an accused individual, unless otherwise required to do so by law. The confidential advisor shall, to the extent authorized under law, provide confidential services to students. Any requests for accommodations, made by a confidential advisor shall not trigger an investigation by the institution.
  - (i) No later than the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year, the institution shall appoint an adequate number of confidential advisors. The Board of Regents shall determine the adequate number of confidential advisors for an institution based upon its size no later than Jan. 1, 2016.
  - (j) Each institution that enrolls fewer than 5,000 students may partner with another institution in their system or region to provide services.
- (2) Website. The institution shall list on its website:
- (a) The contact information for obtaining a confidential advisor.
  - (b) Reporting options for alleged victims of a sexually-oriented criminal offense.
  - (c) The process of investigation and disciplinary proceedings of the institution.
  - (d) The process of investigation and adjudication of the criminal justice system.
  - (e) Potential reasonable accommodations that the institution may provide to an alleged victim.
  - (f) The telephone number and website address for a local, state, or national

hotline providing information to sexual violence victims, which shall be updated on a timely basis.

- (g) The name and location of the nearest medical facility where an individual may have a rape kit administered by an individual trained in sexual assault forensic medical examination and evidence collection, and information on transportation options and available reimbursement for a visit to such facility.
- (3) Online reporting. The institution may provide an online reporting system to collect anonymous disclosures of crimes and track patterns of crime on campus. An individual may submit a confidential report about a specific crime to the institution using the online reporting system. If the institution uses an online reporting system, the online system shall also include information regarding how to report a crime to a responsible employee and law enforcement and how to contact a confidential advisor.
- (4) Amnesty policy. The institution shall provide an amnesty policy for any student who reports, in good faith, sexual violence to the institution. Such student shall not be sanctioned by the institution for a nonviolent student conduct violation, such as underage drinking, that is revealed in the course of such a report.
- (5) Training. Not later than Jan. 1, 2016, the Board of Regents, in coordination with the attorney general and in consultation with state or local victim services organizations, shall develop a program for training for each individual who is involved in implementing an institution's student grievance procedures, including each individual who is responsible for resolving complaints of reported sex offenses or sexual misconduct policy violations, and each employee of an institution who has responsibility for conducting an interview with an alleged victim of a sexually-oriented criminal offense. Each institution shall ensure that the individuals and employees receive the training described in proposed law no later than the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents' Uniform Policy on Sexual Assault to require that institutions communicate with each other regarding transfer of students against whom disciplinary action has been taken as a result of a code of conduct violation relating to sexually-oriented criminal offenses.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents' Uniform Policy on Sexual Assault to require that institutions withhold transcripts of students seeking a transfer with pending disciplinary action relative to sexually-oriented criminal offenses, until such investigation is complete.

Proposed law requires that beginning Aug. 1, 2016, every private institution in the state annually submit its campus safety plan to combat sexual harassment to the Board of Regents.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3351(H) and R.S. 17:3399.11 through 3399.16 )

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Provides that proposed law becomes effective when funding is made available.
2. Removes requirement that survey be administered to faculty and employees.

3. Provides that student participation in the survey is voluntary.
4. Makes present law applicable only to public postsecondary institutions.
5. Removes requirement that each institution designate a employee responsible for reporting or redressing offenses.
6. Provides that Board of Regents' policy shall prescribe method of updating memorandum of understanding between postsecondary institutions and law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.
7. Provides for method of sharing general information to improve campus safety.
8. Provides for certain information to be included in police reports.
9. Provides that institution is not liable if local law enforcement agencies refuse to enter into memorandum of understanding.
10. Changes terminology regarding "victims" to "alleged victims".
11. Provides for inter-campus transfer policy.
12. Requires each nonpublic postsecondary institution to annually submit its campus safety plan to combat sexual harassment to the Board of Regents, beginning Aug. 16, 2016.
13. Makes technical corrections.