
DIGEST

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HB 446 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Miguez

Abstract: Authorizes each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students.

Present law provides with respect to permitted courses of study for elementary and secondary school students.

Proposed law permits each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide age and grade appropriate classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students. Requires that such instruction be integrated into an existing course of study, and specifies that the purpose of such instruction shall be to promote the protection and safety of children. Provides that such instruction shall adopt or be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program developed by the National Rifle Assoc. or a substantially similar program designed to promote firearm accident prevention and safety. Prohibits such instruction from including the use of firearms and from including the expression of value judgments about the use of firearms by teachers or school personnel. Requires the school board to determine the timing and duration of the instruction.

(Adds R.S. 17:282.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Authorize instead of requiring firearm accident prevention and safety instruction in elementary schools.
2. Change the content of the instruction from "firearm familiarity and safety" to "firearm accident prevention and safety".
3. Provide that the instruction may adopt or be based on the Eddie Eagle program instead of requiring that it do so.
4. Add requirement that the school board determine the timing and duration of the instruction.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require instead of authorizing that such instruction be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program, but authorize school boards to satisfy the requirement by adopting a substantially similar program designed to promote firearm accident prevention or safety.
2. Add prohibition on such instruction including the use of firearms and from including the expression of value judgments.