SLS 16RS-382

REENGROSSED

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 353

BY SENATOR BISHOP AND REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

SCHOOLS. Provides for the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act. (8/1/16)

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 17:221.7 and 3996(B)(42), relative to dropout prevention programs for high
3	school students; to provide for the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act;
4	to provide for a purpose for the Act; to require public high school governing
5	authorities to adopt policies that support expectant and parenting students; to provide
6	for reporting requirements and criteria; to provide for an effective date; and to
7	provide for related matters.
8	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
9	Section 1. R.S. 17:221.7 and 3996(B)(42) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
10	§221.7. Dropout prevention and recovery for expectant and parenting students
11	A. The Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need to ensure that all
12	students graduate from high school, despite the many challenges they may face.
13	The legislature acknowledges that pregnancy is consistently the most common
14	family-related reason given by female students who drop out of high school.
15	Further, the legislature finds that federal Title IX of the Education
16	Amendments of 1972 protects the rights of expectant and parenting students,
17	and encompassed in that protection is the right to a safe and supportive school

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1	environment that promotes high school graduation.
2	B. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 establishes basic legal
3	obligations of any educational program receiving federal assistance.
4	(4) Reinstating a female student, upon medical release, to the academic
5	and extracurricular status which she held when her medical leave began.
6	C.(1) Each governing authority of a public secondary school receiving
7	federal financial assistance shall adopt a policy that complies with the
8	requirements of federal Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
9	(2) In addition to the basic legal obligations under federal Title IX of the
10	Education Amendments of 1972, the following key provisions shall be included
11	in a school governing authority's policy regarding expectant and parenting
12	students:
13	(a) Maintaining student confidentiality.
14	(b) Ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment.
15	(c) Promoting academic success.
16	(d) Implementing sensible attendance policies.
17	(3) Such policy shall be readily available to the public by posting on the
18	website of the school or school governing authority, or by other appropriate
19	means.
20	(4) The Department of Education shall submit a written report to the
21	Senate and House committees on education and health and welfare at least sixty
22	days before the 2017 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which shall
23	include a summary of the aggregate data related to the graduation rate of
24	expectant and parenting students, and any recommendations for changes in
25	policy or legislation. However, in no case shall personally identifiable student
26	information be reported.
27	§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements
28	* * *
29	B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and

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1	except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
2	charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
3	Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
4	exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
5	applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
6	the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:
7	* * *

8

(42) Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act, R.S. 17:221.7.

The original instrument was prepared by Christine Arbo Peck. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Laura Gail Sullivan.

SB 353 Reengrossed

DIGEST 2016 Regular Session

Bishop

<u>Proposed law</u> establishes the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act to recognize existing Federal Title IX obligations and policy provisions that shall be adopted by governing authorities of public secondary schools with respect to such students. Further requires the Dept. of Education to report to the legislature before the 2017 Regular Session a summary of data on rates of graduation for students who are expecting and parenting and recommendations for legislation. Specifies that no personally identifiable student information shall be reported.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 17:221.7 and 3996(B)(42))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

- 1. Extends the authority to provide medical excuses to medical professionals in addition to doctors.
- 2. Changes responsibility for compliance, monitoring, data collection and reporting <u>from</u> the Department of Education <u>to</u> the office of the attorney general.
- 3. Prohibits reporting of personally identifiable student information.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

- 1. Requires the school or school governing authority to post the policy required pursuant to <u>proposed law</u> on its website or to use other appropriate means to make the policy readily available to the public.
- 2. Changes the entity required to report to the legislature <u>from</u> the attorney

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general to the Dept. of Education.

3. Deletes the requirement that the report contain information on the level of compliance with <u>proposed law</u>.