AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:493(C)(1), relative to the removal of school bus operators; to provide for appeals disciplinary actions under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:493(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§ 493. Removal of bus operators; procedures; right to appeal

* * *

C.(1) The superintendent shall have ten calendar days to review the school bus operator's response and to provide written notice to the bus operator of the interim disciplinary action, if any. A superintendent may take interim disciplinary action, which may include placing the bus operator on administrative leave. The operator may appeal the interim disciplinary action within twenty days. A permanent bus operator shall not be placed on administrative leave without pay unless the bus operator has been arrested for a violation of the following: R.S. 14:42 through 43.5, 80 through 81.5, any other sexual offense affecting minors, any of the crimes provided in R.S. 15:587.1, or any justified complaint of child abuse or neglect on file in the central registry pursuant to Children’s Code Article 615.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
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HB 349 Original 2022 Regular Session Bryant

Abstract: Adds an appeal step to the school bus operator disciplinary process in certain circumstances.

Present law provides for the removal of a permanent school bus operator by the local school board if the bus operator is found guilty on written and signed charges of certain offenses, including:

(1) Willful neglect of duty.
(2) Incompetence.
(3) Immorality.
(4) Drunkenness while on duty.

Present law provides that a permanent school bus operator has 10 calendar days from receipt of the written notice of charges to respond either in person or in writing. Authorizes the superintendent to take interim disciplinary action including placing the bus operator on administrative leave without pay.

Proposed law retains present law except authorizes a bus operator to appeal an interim disciplinary action.

(Amends R.S. 17:493(C)(1))