AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D) and to enact R.S. 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E), relative to adverse childhood experience in early childhood education; to provide for definitions; to provide for responsibilities of the state Department of Education; to require the creation of programs; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§407.22.1. Adverse childhood experience program; inclusion in early childhood education; pilot program

A.(1) The state Department of Education shall create and implement a program that integrates adverse childhood experience education as defined in R.S. 17:437.2 into early childhood education.

(2) The program shall include adverse childhood experience outreach to the parents and legal guardians of children in early childhood centers. The parents and legal guardians shall receive information, education, and resources about adverse childhood experiences and the effect such experiences have on early childhood education and the manifestations of such experiences in adulthood and the intergenerational nature of such experiences in families.
B. The department shall report to the legislature by January 31, 2023, relative to the status, progress, and effects of the programs implemented pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

§437.2. Adverse childhood experiences; trauma-informed experience education; in-service training

A. As used in this Section:

(2) "Trauma-informed Adverse childhood experience education" means a school-wide approach to education and a classroom-based approach to student learning that recognizes the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences in students, families, and staff and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma-informed adverse childhood experience policies, professional learning, procedures, and practices to address the long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences on a student's cognitive functioning and his physical, social, emotional, and mental well-being.

(3) "Adverse childhood experience family outreach" means a school-wide approach to provide parents and legal guardians access to information about adverse childhood experiences and their effect on early childhood education, and education and resources regarding the manifestations of such experiences in adulthood and the intergenerational nature of such experiences in families.

B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, after consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, shall develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of trauma-informed adverse childhood experience educational practices to address student needs resulting from these experiences.

(2) The board shall adopt rules to require that, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom the training is considered
beneficial by the board shall annually participate in at least one hour of in-service training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of trauma-informed adverse childhood experience education. The in-service training required by this Paragraph shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service training will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by each public school governing authority.

C. The training shall include research-based information regarding the following:

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(3) Best practices for schools and classrooms regarding trauma-informed approaches to adverse childhood experience considerations in education.

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D. The state Department of Education shall report to the legislature by January 31, 2023, relative to efforts to integrate adverse childhood experience educational practices into schools.

E. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.

Section 2. The Department of Education shall begin implementing R.S. 17:407.22.1 as enacted by this Act in fiscal year 2022-2023.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________