

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 451

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Articles 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A)(3) and (4)
3 and to enact Children's Code Article 610(A)(5), relative to mandatory reporting of
4 child abuse or neglect; to provide for police officers or law enforcement officials
5 who work as school resource officers; to provide for definitions; to provide for
6 mandatory reporting requirements for school resource officers; and to provide for
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Children's Code Articles 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A)(3) and (4) are
10 hereby amended and reenacted and Children's Code Article 610(A)(5) is hereby enacted to
11 read as follows:

12 Art. 603. Definitions

13 As used in this Title:

14 * * *

15 (17) "Mandatory reporter" is any of the following individuals:

16 * * *

17 (d) "Teaching or child care provider" is any person who provides or assists
18 in the teaching, training, and supervision of a child, including any public or private
19 teacher, teacher's aide, instructional aide, school principal, school staff member,
20 ~~school resource officer~~, bus driver, coach, professor, technical or vocational
21 instructor, technical or vocational school staff member, college or university
22 administrator, college or university staff member, social worker, probation officer,

1 foster home parent, group home or other child care institutional staff member,
2 personnel of residential home facilities, a licensed or unlicensed day care provider,
3 or any individual who provides these services to a child in a voluntary or
4 professional capacity.

5 * * *

6 (e) Police officers or law enforcement officials. Any police officer or law
7 enforcement official who works as a school resource officer shall be considered a
8 mandatory reporter. ~~A school resource officer shall not receive information from
9 another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the
10 report.~~

11 * * *

12 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States
13 Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

14 A.

15 * * *

16 (3) If a school resource officer suspects child abuse or neglect of a student or
17 if a mandatory reporter reports suspected child abuse or neglect to a school resource
18 officer, the school resource officer shall immediately notify the officer's employing
19 law enforcement agency or the Department of Children and Family Services in
20 accordance with the provisions of this Article. The school resource officer's
21 employer shall assign investigation of the matter to the most appropriate law
22 enforcement officer, who may be the school resource officer.

23 ~~(3)~~ (4) If a mandatory reporter is prohibited from immediately making the
24 report required by this Chapter to the department or local or state law enforcement
25 because of an employer's policies or employee manual, the mandatory reporter shall
26 file a complaint with local or state law enforcement. Local or state law enforcement
27 shall investigate the complaint, and an employer violating this Chapter shall be
28 subject to the penalties provided for in R.S. 14:131.1 and 403. An employer shall
29 not discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a mandatory reporter for
30 complying with this Article. If an employer is found discriminating or retaliating

