

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 343

BY REPRESENTATIVES STEVE CARTER AND AMEDEE

TEACHERS: Provides relative to the statutory rights of teachers

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:416.18(A)(11) and 3996(B)(45), relative to teachers; to provide relative to
3 the rights of teachers; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 17:416.18(A)(11) and 3996(B)(45) are hereby enacted to read as
6 follows:

7 §416.18. Teacher Bill of Rights

8 A. Respecting the authority of teachers is essential to creating an
9 environment conducive to learning, effective instruction in the classroom, and proper
10 administration of city, parish, and other local public schools. To maintain and
11 protect that authority, it is important that teachers, administrators, parents, and
12 students are fully informed of the various rights conferred upon teachers pursuant to
13 this Section, which are:

14 * * *

15 (11) A teacher has the right to be free during work hours from coercion,
16 harassment, undue influence, and the intentional omission of information by school
17 system employees and school board members regarding membership in any
18 organization, teacher benefits, insurance, and any other work-related matter. A
19 teacher also has the right to be free during work hours from coercion, harassment,

1 and undue influence by school system employees and school board members
2 regarding political campaigns and membership in any organization.

3 * * *

4 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

5 * * *

6 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
7 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
8 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
9 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
10 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
11 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
12 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

13 * * *

14 (45) Teacher Bill of Rights, R.S. 17:416.18.

15 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 343 Reengrossed 2018 Regular Session Steve Carter

Abstract: Provides that certain teachers have a right to be free from undue pressure from school system employees and school board members including the withholding of information valuable to the teacher and other matters.

Present law (R.S. 17:416.18) provides for a teacher bill of rights. Proposed law grants teachers the additional right to be free, during school hours, from coercion, harassment, undue influence, and the intentional omission of information by school system employees and school board members regarding membership in any organization, teacher benefits, insurance, and any other work-related matter. Grants teachers the right to be free, during school hours, from coercion, harassment, and undue influence by school system employees and school board members regarding political campaigns and membership in any organization. Further provides that a charter school established in accordance with present law and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from the provisions of present law (R.S. 17:416.18).

(Adds R.S. 17:416.18(A)(11) and 3996(B)(45))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change the omission of information, to the *intentional* omission of information.
2. Change school and district administrators to school system employees.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Limit the protections provided to teachers by proposed law to during school hours.
2. Make present law and proposed law relative to the teacher bill of rights applicable to charter schools.