

1 WHEREAS, according to the Associated Press, student-on-student sexual assault
2 threatens thousands of children each year in elementary, middle, and high schools across the
3 country; and

4 WHEREAS, relying on state education records and federal crime data, the Associated
5 Press conducted a year-long investigation and uncovered roughly seventeen thousand official
6 reports of sexual assaults by students over a four-year period; and

7 WHEREAS, although that figure represents the most complete tally yet of sexual
8 assaults among the nation's fifty million K-12 students, it does not fully capture the problem
9 because such instances of abuse are greatly under-reported and some states do not track
10 them; and

11 WHEREAS, while the trauma for the victim is the same as if it had happened by an
12 adult, child sexual abuse by another child often goes unreported for fear of what it will do
13 to the child to have the abuse made public or because it is dismissed by an adult as "kids just
14 being kids"; and

15 WHEREAS, students who are victims of sexual abuse at school need appropriate care
16 to avoid the lifelong trauma that so many survivors of sexual abuse experience; and

17 WHEREAS, the student offenders also need proper care and may also be victims of
18 abuse themselves; and

19 WHEREAS, in recognizing and acknowledging that the safety and well-being of our
20 students is of the highest importance, it is imperative that the state board and the public
21 school governing authorities fulfill their duty and responsibility to ensure that all students
22 are provided with a safe and secure learning environment in schools so they can feel
23 protected and are able to learn and succeed.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and
26 Secondary Education to require each public school governing authority to develop and adopt
27 a policy to address instances of sexual abuse by children in schools and to submit a written
28 report to the House Committee on Education by not later than December 1, 2018, on the
29 status of the development and adoption of such policies.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
2 Education, in consultation with the Baton Rouge Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Trauma
3 Awareness and Response (STAR), is requested to provide guidance for use by the public
4 school governing authorities in developing the policies, and such guidance shall include but
5 not be limited to the following information:

6 (1) Age and grade appropriate procedures for recognizing, reporting, and addressing
7 instances of student-on-student sexual abuse.

8 (2) Procedures for counseling to be provided to students who are victims of such
9 abuse and their families.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the executive director
12 of the Baton Rouge Child Advocacy Center, the president of STAR, and the state
13 superintendent of education who shall disseminate a copy to each public school governing
14 authority including charter schools and the state's special schools.

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)]

HR 170 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Smith

Requests the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to require each public school governing authority (including traditional public schools, charter schools, and special schools) to develop and adopt a policy to address instances of sexual abuse by children in schools and to submit a written report to the House education committee by Dec. 1, 2018, on the status of the development and adoption of such policies. Further requests the state board, in consultation with the Baton Rouge Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR), to provide guidance for use by the public school governing authorities in developing the policies and to include information regarding procedures for recognizing, reporting, and addressing instances of student-on-student sexual abuse and for counseling for students who are victims of such abuse and their families.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Request the state board to also consult with STAR in providing guidance to public school governing authorities pursuant to the Resolution.