

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 416

BY SENATOR BOUIE

SCHOOLS. Provides relative to a disciplinarian or other school administrator to ride on a school bus transporting students to and from school. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:158(K) and to enact R.S. 17:158(L), relative to school buses;
3 to provide with respect to the operation of school buses that transport public school
4 students; to enhance the safety of students by requiring disciplinarians or other
5 school personnel to ride on the buses at certain times; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:158(K) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:158(L) is
9 hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §158. School buses for transportation of students; employment of bus operators;
11 alternative means of transportation; improvement of school bus
12 turnarounds; loading and unloading students

13 * * *

14 **K.(1) Each public city, parish, and other local school board that provides**
15 **free transportation on a school bus pursuant to this Section shall also provide**
16 **a bus monitor, who may be a disciplinarian or other school administrator, to**
17 **ride on the school bus transporting students to and from school in order to**

1 enhance the safety of each student, when an incident takes place on the bus that
 2 causes a disturbance. The monitor shall ride on the bus for the remainder of the
 3 year.

4 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, "disturbance" means doing any of
 5 the following:

6 (a) Engaging in a fistic encounter.

7 (b) Addressing any offensive, derisive, or annoying words to any other
 8 person who is lawfully in any street, or other public place; or call him by any
 9 offensive or derisive name, or make any noise or exclamation in his presence
 10 and hearing with the intent to deride, offend, or annoy him, or to prevent him
 11 from pursuing his lawful business, occupation, or duty.

12 (c) Appearing in an intoxicated condition.

13 (d) Engaging in any act in a violent and tumultuous manner by any three
 14 or more persons.

15 L. The provisions of R.S. 17:81(CC) relative to carpool and bus line policies
 16 apply to any nonpublic school for which transportation of students is provided by a
 17 city, parish, or other local public school board.

18 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 19 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 20 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 21 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 22 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Carla S. Roberts. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Mary Francis Aucoin.

Present law provides that each city, parish, and other local public school board is to provide free school bus transportation for any student attending a public school within the jurisdictional boundaries of the local school board if the student resides more than one mile from the school. Provides that the requirement to provide free transportation does not apply to any student attending a nonpublic school. Provides for the requirements with respect to

school buses, required equipment on the buses, and required conduct of school bus drivers.

Proposed law retains present law but requires that each public city, parish, and other local school board also provide a bus monitor, who may be a disciplinarian or other school administrator to ride on each school bus transporting students to and from school to enhance the safety of each student.

Proposed law authorizes a school board to provide a bus monitor on a school bus only when the students cause a disturbance while on the bus and requires the monitor to ride on the bus for the remainder of the year.

Proposed law defines disturbance as doing any of the following:

- (1) Engaging in a fistic encounter.
- (2) Addressing any offensive, derisive, or annoying words to any other person who is lawfully in any street, or other public place; or call him by any offensive or derisive name, or make any noise or exclamation in his presence and hearing with the intent to deride, offend, or annoy him, or to prevent him from pursuing his lawful business, occupation, or duty.
- (3) Appearing in an intoxicated condition.
- (4) Engaging in any act in a violent and tumultuous manner by any three or more persons.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:158(K); adds (L))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Makes technical change.
2. Allows for a bus monitor to be a disciplinarian or another school administrator.
3. Requires a bus monitor only when a disturbance or bodily injury occurs on the bus.
4. Requires the monitor to ride on the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Limits the requirement of a monitor to incidents that take place on a bus that cause a disturbance.
2. Defines disturbance.