HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 684 2025 Regular Session Mack

STUDENTS: Provides relative to the use of seclusion and physical restraint to address the behavior of students with exceptionalities

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

- 1. Moves effective date for <u>proposed law</u>, relative to seclusion and physical restraint, <u>from</u> August 1, 2025, <u>to</u> December 1, 2025.
- 2. Requires each public school governing authority to verify periodically that the cameras installed in certain classrooms remain in operation.
- 3. Requires a school to notify the parents of students in a classroom if a camera in the classroom is out of operation for more than two consecutive school days.
- 4. Requires the principal or his designee to notify electronically the director or supervisor of special education of seclusion or physical restraint instead of requiring the school employee to notify the director or supervisor of special education.
- 5. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:416.21) provides relative to the use of seclusion and physical restraint in response to the behavior of students with exceptionalities.

<u>Present law</u> prohibits mechanical restraint on students with exceptionalities. <u>Proposed law</u> retains present law.

<u>Present law</u> defines "physical restraint". <u>Proposed law</u> changes definition <u>from</u> bodily force used to limit a person's movement <u>to</u> the use of manual restraint techniques that involve physical force applied to restrict the movement of all or part of a person's body.

<u>Proposed law</u> further adds the following relative to physical restraint:

- (1) That physical restraint does not mean a school employee holding a student for less than three minutes within an hour for the protection of the student or others.
- (2) Requires physical restraint to only be used by trained personnel, except in emergency situations in which there is not sufficient time to have trained personnel respond.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires that a school nurse or school health designee visit a student who was secluded or physically restrained as soon as possible after such restraint has occurred, but no later than the end of the same school day, to look for and document any signs of injury or distress.

<u>Present law</u>, relative to parental notification of the use of seclusion or physical restraint, requires notification as soon as possible. <u>Proposed law</u> instead requires such notification via a phone call as soon as is practicable but no later than the end of the same school day during which the seclusion or physical restraint was used.

<u>Present law</u> requires a student who was secluded or physically restrained to be continuously monitored and requires documentation of such monitoring every 15 minutes. Proposed law,

instead, requires the student to be monitored while seclusion or physical restraint is used and removes the time component.

<u>Present law</u> provides that if a student is involved in a certain number of incidents involving seclusion or physical restraint in a school year, the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team is required to review and revise the student's intervention plan. <u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but reduces incident number threshold <u>from</u> 5 to 3, and requires the special education teacher to send prior written notice of the intention to call an IEP team meeting to the student's parent or legal guardian.

<u>Present law</u> requires each public school governing authority to adopt written guidelines and procedures regarding seclusion and physical restraint.

<u>Present law</u> requires each public school governing authority to provide such guidelines and procedures to the state Dept. of Education (DOE), all school employees, and every parent or legal guardian of a student with an exceptionality. <u>Proposed law</u> retains present law.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires each public school governing authority to annually submit such guidelines and procedures to its special education advisory council as provided for in <u>present</u> law (R.S. 17:1944.1).

<u>Present law</u> requires each public school governing authority to report all instances where seclusion or physical restraint is used to address student behavior to DOE. <u>Proposed law</u> retains present law.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes DOE to develop a crisis intervention training program.

Proposed law defines "crisis intervention", "school health designee", and "sensory room".

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:1948) requires each public school governing authority to install cameras in certain classrooms at the request of a parent.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires such installation regardless of a parental request. Further requires each public school governing authority to verify periodically that the cameras remain in operation, and requires a school to notify the parents of students in a classroom if a camera in the classroom is out of operation for more than two consecutive school days. (Effective Feb. 1, 2026)

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:7) provides for duties and responsibilities of BESE. Requires BESE to prepare and adopt rules and guidelines for the appropriate use of seclusion, physical restraint, and mechanical restraint of students with exceptionalities as defined in <u>present law</u> (R.S. 17:1942), in accordance with <u>present law</u> (Administrative Procedure Act (APA)). <u>Proposed law</u> instead requires BESE to prepare and adopt rules and guidelines for providing safe learning environments through training and monitoring of the appropriate use of seclusion and physical restraint students with exceptionalities as defined in <u>present law</u> (R.S. 17:1942), in accordance with the APA.

<u>Proposed law</u> (R.S. 17:7.2) requires teacher preparation programs to include completion of a crisis intervention training program and authorizes such instruction to be incorporated into an existing course of study.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 17:8.1) provides for the certification of teachers. <u>Proposed law</u> requires that an applicant complete a crisis intervention training program created or approved by DOE.

Effective on December 1, 2025, except that <u>proposed law</u> provisions relative to cameras in certain classrooms are effective February 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:7(5)(b)(i), 416.1(B)(3)(b), 416.21, 1944.1(A) and (D)(1)(intro. para.), 1948(A) and (B); Adds R.S. 17:7.2(A)(10), 8.1(A)(8), 1944.1(D)(1)(d), and 1948(A)(3); Repeals R.S. 17:1948(C)(7) and (9) and (G))