

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 256

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREEMAN, EDMONSTON, MARTINEZ, MOORE,  
SCHLEGEL, TAYLOR, AND WALTERS

SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: Provides that school employees are subject to existing requirements pertaining to mandatory reporters, including certain training provided by the Department of Children and Family Services

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:421 and 3996(B)(24), relative to school employees; to provide for the  
3 applicability of laws relative to mandatory reporters to certain school employees; to  
4 provide relative to certain training provided by the Department of Children and  
5 Family Services; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:421 and 3996(B)(24) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §421. School employees; mandatory reporting requirements

9 Each school employee who is a mandatory reporter as defined in Children's  
10 Code Article 603 is subject to all provisions of state law relative to mandatory  
11 reporters, including but not limited to the training and reporting requirements for  
12 teaching or child care providers provided in Children's Code Article 603.1.

13 \* \* \*

14 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

15 \* \* \*

16 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
17 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
18 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
19 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be

1 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
2 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
3 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

4 \* \* \*

5 (24) Mandatory reporter requirements, R.S. 17:421.

6 \* \* \*

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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)]

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HB 256 Engrossed

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Freeman

**Abstract:** Provides relative to existing requirements applicable to mandatory reporters, including requirements pertaining to certain training provided by the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Present law provides that the definition of a "mandatory reporter" includes a "teaching or child care provider". Requires each teaching or child care provider to complete an online training course provided by the DCFS between June first and August 31st annually. Requires that a record of completion of the course be provided to each entity at which the provider is employed. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that each school employee who meets the definition of a mandatory reporter as provided in present law is subject to all present law provisions relative to mandatory reporters, including but not limited to such present law training and reporting requirements. Proposed law is applicable to such employees of all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:421 and 3996(B)(24))