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## DIGEST

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HB 137 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Increases penalties for terrorizing and menacing when the target is a school.

Present law provides that the crime of terrorizing is the intentional communication that a crime of violence is occurring or imminent with the intent to cause the general public to be in sustained fear for their safety. Provides a penalty of \$15,000 or up to 15 years of imprisonment, or both.

Proposed law increases the penalty for terrorizing a school. Provides a penalty of \$15,000 or five to 15 years of imprisonment without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence, or both.

Present law provides that the crime of menacing is similar to the crime of terrorizing but with a lesser standard of intent. Provides a penalty of \$1,000 or imprisonment of up to two years, or both.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law increases the penalty for menacing a school. Provides a penalty of \$1,000 or two to five years of imprisonment, or both.

Present law (R.S. 14:92.2) provides a list of crimes which serve as predicate crimes for improper supervision of a minor by a parent or legal custodian.

Proposed law retains present law and adds terrorizing or menacing a school provided in present law (R.S. 14:40.1) and communicating false information of a planned bombing on school property provided in present law (R.S. 14:54.6) as predicate crimes.

Present law (R.S. 15:951) creates the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law generally retains present law but lowers the age of participants in the program from at least 16 years old to at least 14 years old.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Education to develop and provide information to schools to inform students and their parents of the expected consequences for terrorizing or menacing a school.

Present law (R.S. 17:3996) provides a list of laws from which charter schools are not exempt.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the requirement for charter schools to inform students and

parents of the consequences of terrorizing and menacing a school.

Present law provides for disposition after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquent acts by a juvenile.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that after adjudication for violation of terrorizing or menacing provided in present law (R.S. 14:40.1) or communicating false information of a planned bombing on school property provided in present law (R.S. 14:54.6), the court shall order a child to undergo a mental examination, up to 12 months probation or up to six months commitment in a juvenile detention facility, and/or participation in the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law provides that after adjudication for these crimes by a juvenile, the parent or legal guardian is subject to a civil fine of up to \$5,000.

Proposed law provides that after a second or subsequent adjudication for these crimes, the court shall order a mental examination, up to 18 months probation or up to nine months commitment, and/or participation in the Back on Track Youth Pilot Program.

Proposed law provides that after a second or subsequent adjudication, the child's parent or legal guardian is subject to a civil fine between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Proposed law provides that in addition to these penalties, if the court finds that the parents are financially able, they shall reimburse the government agencies and political subdivision for incurred costs pertaining to the response, prosecution, and other activities resulting from the violation.

(Amends R.S. 14:40.1(A)(1), R.S. 15:951(E), and Ch.C. Art. 897.1(D)-(G); Adds R.S. 14:40.1(A)(3) and (B)(3) and 92.2(A)(2)(g) and (h), R.S. 17:416.20.1 and 3996(B)(92), and Ch.C. Art. 897.1(H) and (I))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Increase the penalty provided in proposed law for the offense of terrorizing directed at a school property from with or without hard labor to at hard labor for not less than five nor more than 15 years.