

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 488

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

SCHOOLS. Creates the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to supplement school crisis management and response plans. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:416.16.2, relative to school crisis management and response plans; to
3 provide for the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program; to establish eligibility
4 to participate in the pilot program; to provide for administration of the program; and
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:416.16.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§416.16.2. School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program**

9 **A.(1) The state Department of Education may establish a School Safety**
10 **Drone Response Pilot Program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a**
11 **supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at**
12 **each city, parish, and other local public schools.**

13 **(2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Schools shall establish**
14 **criteria for participation by each city, parish, and other local public schools.**

15 **(3) The department may choose a vendor to operate the pilot program**
16 **and provide the drone response technology.**

17 **B. The program shall be conducted as part of the crisis management and**

Proposed law requires participating schools to provide school mapping data to the selected vendor, subject to existing confidentiality laws, and requires the vendor to enter into confidentiality agreements with the department, the school, and the La. Center for Safe Schools.

Proposed law authorizes the department to accept grants or private funding to implement the program.

Proposed law requires the department, beginning Dec. 31, 2027, to submit an annual report to the Senate and House education committees regarding the program's findings and effectiveness.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.16.2)