

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 682

BY REPRESENTATIVES DICKERSON AND CHASSION

VETERANS: Provides for certain veterans to work as school guardians at public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:416.19.1 and 3996(B)(24), relative to the employment of veterans at
3 schools; to provide for definitions; to provide relative to veterans; to provide relative
4 to charter schools; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:416.19.1 and 3996(B)(24) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §416.19.1. School guardians

8 A. "School guardian" means a veteran as defined in R.S. 13:5364, who meets
9 all of the following criteria:

10 (1) He was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United
11 States as evidenced by a Department of Defense form DD 214.

12 (2) He successfully completed the requisite background check as provided
13 by applicable law.

14 (3) He completed school incident training with law enforcement and school
15 officials including but not limited to annual training in firearms safety, self-defense,
16 de-escalation tactics, mental health incidents, disability awareness, and training in
17 active threats at school, basic trauma, and first aid.

18 (4) He is employed or contracted by a city, parish, or other local public
19 school system, a nonpublic school, or a law enforcement agency.

Proposed law defines "school guardian" as a veteran as defined in present law (R.S. 13:5364) who meets the following criteria:

- (1) An honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- (2) A successful background check.
- (3) Completion of school incident training with law enforcement and school officials.
- (4) He is employed or contracted by a school system, a nonpublic school, or law enforcement agency.
- (5) He operates under certain policies regarding scope of duties, authority, or use of force.
- (6) He is physically and mentally capable of performing assigned duties.

Proposed law authorizes a school guardian to prevent an active threat and temporarily detain an individual when he has reasonable cause to believe the individual has committed or will commit a forcible felony.

Proposed law provides that a school guardian shall not be considered a peace officer and shall not have arrest powers.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.19.1 and 3996(B)(24))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add certain criteria required for a veteran to be qualified to serve as a school resource officer.
2. Include charter schools.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Define "school guardian" as a veteran as defined by present law who meets certain criteria.
2. Authorize a school guardian to prevent an active threat in certain circumstances.
3. Remove proposed law provisions relative to school resource officers.