

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to school safety, security, and crisis

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416.16(A) and (C) and to enact R.S. 17:416.16(D) through
3 (F) and 3996(B)(33), relative to school safety, security, and crisis; to provide relative
4 to school safety, security, and crisis preparedness, prevention, response, and after
5 action management and review plans and the definition, preparation, content, review,
6 and provision of copies thereof; to provide relative to training; and to provide for
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:416.16(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 17:416.16(D) through (F) and 3996(B)(33) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §416.16. School safety, security, and crisis preparedness, prevention, management
12 and response, and after action management and review plans

13 A.(1) For the purposes of this Section, a "school safety, security, and crisis
14 preparedness, prevention, management and response, and after action management
15 and review plan", referred to in this Section as a "plan", means a plan to address
16 school safety and the incidence of a shooting or other violence at schools, on school
17 buses, and at school-related activities; to respond effectively to such incidents; and
18 to ensure that every student, teacher, and school employee has access to a safe,
19 secure, and orderly school that is conducive to learning. Such plans shall also address
20 the management of any other emergency situation.

Proposed law additionally requires that the plan:

- (1) Focus on preventing loss of life and injury.
- (2) Detail the specific roles and responsibilities of local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials.
- (3) Include contingencies based upon different scenarios of varying threat levels.

Present law authorizes the plan to include provision for encouraging peer helper programs and identifying students who may have experienced rejection or other traumatic life events. Proposed law requires rather than authorizes this and also requires the plan to provide for student counseling.

Plan review, revision, and approval

Present law requires each public school to review the plan annually. Proposed law specifically requires each principal jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials and the local school superintendent to review the plan annually and following any shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation. Further requires each plan to be revised for maximum effectiveness every three years at a minimum but authorizes further revision as these individuals deem necessary.

Present law requires each school to submit the plan and resubmit any revised plan to the local school board for approval. Proposed law retains present law.

Providing training on and distributing copies of the plan

Proposed law requires each principal to provide:

- (1) In-service training each school year for all school employees pertaining to the plan; authorizes the principal to involve local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials in the training.
- (2) A copy of the plan to (a) the president of the local school board, (b) the local school superintendent, and (c) the local police chief or sheriff, as applicable, as well as the local fire chief, each of whom shall be responsible for keeping a readily accessible copy of the plan in his respective office.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.16(A) and (C); Adds R.S. 17:416.16(D)-(F) and 3996(B)(33))