

Relative to school crisis management and response plans:

DEFINITION AND CONTENT

Existing law defines a "crisis management and response plan" as a plan to address school safety and the incidence of violence, at schools, on school buses, and at school-related activities; respond effectively to such incidents; and ensure that every student, teacher, and school employee has access to a safe, secure, and orderly school that is conducive to learning. Further requires that plans address the management of any other emergency situation and detail school employees' roles and responsibilities and coordination agreements, services, and security measures in the event of a violent incident or emergency situation; provides that plans may include provision for encouraging peer helper programs and identifying students who may have experienced rejection or other traumatic life events. Proposed law would have retained existing law.

PLAN PREPARATION, REVIEW, REVISION, APPROVAL, AND REHEARSAL; RULES AND REGULATIONS

Existing law requires each public school principal to prepare a plan in accordance with school board policy and to consider and include, if appropriate, input from students and their parents, teachers and other school employees, community leaders, and local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials; requires each public school to review the plan annually and revise it as necessary. Proposed law would have retained existing law except would have specifically required each principal to review the plan at least once annually and revise it as necessary and in such review and revision, as in initial plan preparation, to consider and include, if appropriate, input from such individuals and officials.

Existing law requires each school to submit the plan and resubmit any revised plan to the local school board for approval. Proposed law would have instead required the plan to be submitted to the board for review and approval at least once annually, including upon each revision. Proposed law would have required each public school to conduct a safety drill to rehearse its plan at least twice per school year and would have required school boards to adopt rules and regulations to provide for proposed law implementation.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Existing law authorizes any city, parish, or other local public school system and any nonpublic school to make or enter into agreements with a local law enforcement agency to provide for school resource officers. Proposed law would have retained existing law and would have further provided that a school resource officer may be armed with a firearm authorized by a law enforcement agency at all times while serving on duty as a school resource officer.

(Proposed to amend R.S. 17:416.16(B) and (C) and 416.19(A); proposed to add 17:416.16(D))

VETO MESSAGE:

"House Bill No. 368 by Representative Norton is duplicative of another bill I have already signed into law, Act 50 of 2013 by Representative Bob Hensgens. Both bills provide an outline for school safety and crisis response plans in schools.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 368 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives."