
DIGEST

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HB 898 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Bacala

Abstract: Provides relative to threats of violence or terrorism at elementary and secondary schools, including investigation and reporting thereof and required mental health evaluations.

Proposed law, relative to actions taken by school employees and school boards, requires that:

- (1) Any school employee who learns of a threat of violence or terrorism report the threat to local law enforcement.
- (2) Each school board adopt a policy for investigating potential threats, which shall include conducting an interview with the reporter, the person allegedly making a threat, and any witnesses and obtaining copies or photographs of any audio or visual evidence.

Proposed law requires that any law enforcement agency receiving notification of an alleged threat of violence or terrorism:

- (1) Begin an investigation not later than the first day that school is in session after the report is received and endeavor to complete it not later than three school days after receiving the report.
- (2) Notify the principal or other school official authorized to act in an emergency.

Proposed law provides the following relative to mandatory reporting and mental health evaluations:

- (1) If the person reported to law enforcement is a student, he shall not be permitted to return to school until undergoing a formal mental health evaluation. Requires the law enforcement agency to file with the appropriate judicial district court for medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluation as outlined in present law (Children's Code Article 1434 et seq.).
- (2) If the person reported to law enforcement pursuant is not a student, he shall not be permitted to be within 500 feet of any school until undergoing a formal mental health evaluation and being deemed by a health care professional to not be dangerous to himself or others.

Proposed law provides that no person shall have a cause of action against any person for any action taken or statement made in adherence with proposed law; however, the immunity from liability shall not apply to any action or statement if it was maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause harm to, harass, or otherwise deceive law enforcement or school officials.

(Adds R.S. 17:409.1-409.6 and 3996(B)(45))