

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

SCHOOLS: Creates the Louisiana Commission on Safe Schools

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Louisiana Commission on Safe Schools to study and review current laws,
3 policies, procedures, and programs in Louisiana relative to preparing for and
4 responding to threats and occurrences of school violence and to identify best
5 practices, programs, and initiatives to ensure stable and safe learning environments
6 for all students and school employees, and to report its findings and
7 recommendations to the governor, the legislature, and the State Board of Elementary
8 and Secondary Education by not later than March 1, 2019.

9 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes and acknowledges that the safety and well-
10 being of all students is of the highest importance; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are laws in place in Louisiana relative to crime prevention in schools, the implementation of crisis management and response plans for schools, and training programs for school security guards and school resource officers; and

14 WHEREAS, all agree that schools should be safe and secure places for all students,
15 teachers, and staff members because without a safe learning environment, teachers cannot
16 teach and students cannot learn; and

17 WHEREAS, all students have the right to attend schools that provide safe, secure,
18 and orderly learning environments that foster academic achievement and that enable students
19 to go to school without fearing for their safety or the safety of their classmates and teachers;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, a review of current policies, procedures, programs, and laws relative
2 to providing safe and productive learning environments for all children is necessary to
3 ensure this right; and

4 WHEREAS, today, more than ever before, with recent incidents of school violence
5 and heightened awareness levels among the public occurring as a result of such incidents,
6 it is essential that education policymakers, lawmakers, law enforcement agencies, public
7 safety and emergency preparedness officials, parents, and others study and review current
8 laws, policies, procedures, and programs and identify best practices, programs, and
9 initiatives in order to ensure that all students and school employees are provided a stable and
10 secure learning environment in which they feel safe and protected.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 create the Louisiana Commission on Safe Schools, hereinafter referred to as the
13 "commission", to study and review current laws, policies, procedures, and programs in place
14 in Louisiana relative to preparing for and responding to threats and occurrences of school
15 violence; to identify best practices, programs, and initiatives to ensure stable and safe
16 learning environments for all students and school employees; and to report its findings and
17 recommendations to the governor, the legislature, and the State Board of Elementary and
18 Secondary Education by not later than March 1, 2019.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall consist of the following
20 members:

- 21 (1) The governor, or his designee.
- 22 (2) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- 23 (3) The president of the Senate, or his designee.
- 24 (4) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.
- 25 (5) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public
26 safety services, or his designee.
- 27 (6) The director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency
28 Preparedness, or his designee.
- 29 (7) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of
30 behavioral health, or his designee.

(8) The executive director, or his designee, of each of the following groups or organizations:

- (a) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- (b) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- (c) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.
- (d) The Louisiana Association of Principals.
- (e) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- (f) The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
- (g) The Nonpublic School Commission.
- (h) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (i) The Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- (j) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
- (k) The Louisiana Juvenile Judges Association.
- (9) The president of the Louisiana Parent Teacher Association, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission's duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) To review current laws, policies, procedures, and programs in place in Louisiana relative to school crisis management and response plans, school security measures, use of school resource officers and other security personnel, response to threats of violence on school campuses, and the authorization of persons to carry firearms on school campuses.

(2) To identify existing resources to address the needs of students who are in need of behavioral health supports.

(3) To identify best practices, programs, and initiatives in all of these areas across public schools in Louisiana and throughout the United States.

(4) To offer recommendations necessary to support the needs of students and school employees in mitigating and responding to threats and occurrences of school violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement of expenses from his employer.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education shall
2 convene the commission for its first meeting not later than September 1, 2018, and shall
3 designate staff to assist the commission in performing its duties and responsibilities.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet at least once each
5 quarter to review its progress and to make any recommendations it deems necessary and
6 shall annually elect a chairman and vice chairman.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall terminate on January 13,
8 2020.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
10 to the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and
11 the state superintendent of education who shall be responsible for disseminating a copy to
12 each group, organization, and office from which members of the commission are
13 designated.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Brass

Creates the La. Commission on Safe Schools to study and review current laws, policies, procedures, and programs in place relative to preparing for and responding to threats and occurrences of school violence and to identify best practices, programs, and initiatives to ensure stable and safe learning environments for all students and school employees. Provides for commission membership, duties, and meetings. Provides for a report of commission findings and recommendations to the governor, the legislature, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by March 1, 2019. Provides for commission termination on Jan 13, 2020.