
DIGEST

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HB 53 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Moss

Abstract: Provides relative to requirements for youth suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, in-service training for school employees, and services available to students.

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to prescribe rules, collaboratively with the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) Adolescent Health Initiative, for a youth suicide prevention plan for public schools. Requires that such plan include procedures for development of suicide prevention programs by local school systems.

Present law requires local suicide prevention programs to comply with BESE regulations and provides relative to the content of such programs.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires schools offering youth suicide prevention programs to report such participation to the state Dept. of Education (DOE). Requires DOE to designate such a school as a Suicide Prevention Certified School and to maintain a list of such schools on its website.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public and approved nonpublic secondary school that issues student identification cards to have printed on the cards the phone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number and, if available, a local suicide prevention hotline number.

Proposed law provides that present law and proposed law regarding suicide prevention programs are applicable to charter schools.

Present law requires BESE to adopt guidelines for in-service training of school employees in suicide prevention. Requires that the board adopt rules requiring public and approved nonpublic school employees to participate in at least two hours of such training annually.

Proposed law requires that such training address:

- (1) Increasing awareness of risk factors.
- (2) Employee response to suspicion, concerns, or warning signs exhibited by students and to crisis situations.
- (3) Policies and protocol for communication with parents.

- (4) Services available at the school and in the community.
- (5) Development of a plan to assist survivors.

Proposed law requires that the board identify suitable programs and requires coordination with LDH in identification of such programs. Requires DOE to post a list of approved programs on its website. Requires school employees to participate in such training, rather than requiring BESE to adopt rules to require such training.

Present law provides for immunity from liability for loss or damage caused by implementation of present law regarding in-service training. Proposed law further provides for such immunity for loss or damage caused by a good faith attempt to implement present law and proposed law.

Proposed law requires BESE to randomly survey schools regarding compliance with requirements for in-service training and requires submission of a report on survey findings to the legislative education and health and welfare committees.

(Amends R.S. 17:282.4(C)(intro. para.) and 437.1; Adds R.S. 17:282.4(F) and 3996(B)(54))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Require the United Way of Southwest La.'s teen text hotline be printed on the back of student identification cards instead of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number, the Crisis Text Line number, and a local suicide prevention hotline number.
2. Make youth suicide prevention programs applicable to charter schools, instead of the identification card component.
3. Delete provision requiring all school employees to complete suicide prevention training and retain present law requiring employees as provided by rule to complete such training.
4. Add content requirements for suicide prevention in-service training. Remove such proposed law content requirements that would have been applicable to school governing authority policies.
5. Change requirement of frequency of BESE to survey schools on compliance with training requirements from annually to randomly.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number and a local suicide prevention hotline number, if available, be printed on the back of student identification

cards instead of the United Way of Southwest La.'s teen text hotline.