

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 93 (HB 53)

2019 Regular Session

Moss

Existing 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.

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

New law 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.

New 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.

New law provides that existing law and new law regarding suicide prevention programs are applicable to charter schools.

Existing 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.

New 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.

New 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.

Existing law provides for immunity from liability for loss or damage caused by implementation of existing law regarding in-service training. New law further provides for such immunity for loss or damage caused by a good faith attempt to implement existing law and new law.

New 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.

Effective August 1, 2019.

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