
DIGEST

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HB 136 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Carpenter

Abstract: Provides relative to reasons for out-of-school suspension and expulsion for students in grades eight and below.

Present law provides for discipline of students, including suspension and expulsion, in public elementary and secondary schools. Provides actions for which a student may be suspended or expelled and procedures related to such disciplinary measures.

Proposed law generally retains present law as applicable to students in grades nine through 12. Provides that a student in grades pre-K through eight may be suspended only for acting in a way that is intended to cause significant bodily harm or emotional distress to another person.

Proposed law authorizes, prior to any suspension or expulsion, that the student be assessed using an instrument developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that is designed to determine if the student has experienced trauma. Requires that the results be used to determine whether the student's behavior may be better addressed in another manner.

Present law prohibits suspension of students in grades pre-K through five for uniform violations. Proposed law makes the prohibition applicable to all students.

(Amends R.S. 17:416(A)(3)(a)(intro. para.) and (b)(i), (B)(1)(b)(i) and (ii)(bb) and (cc), (C)(1) and (2)(a) and (b), (D)(1), and (J)(1); Adds R.S. 17:416(A)(6); Repeals R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(c))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change a requirement that school officials ensure that a student be assessed for trauma prior to a possible suspension or expulsion to an authorization for the official to refer a student for such an assessment.