DIGEST

SB 356 Original 2022 Regular Session Jackson

Present law provides for sick leave for teachers and school employees in state special schools and public schools under the authority of a city, parish, or other local school board.

Proposed law retains present law and clarifies that mental health care is a permissible use for sick leave through the defining of personal illness and physicians.

Proposed law defines protected health information and provides that the information is confidential and requires written consent of the individual for such information to be shared for purposes other than administration of sick leave policies.

Present law requires teacher in-service training for suicide prevention. Further requires such training to address mental health conditions.

Proposed law retains present law. Requires the in-service training to focus on both mental health awareness and suicide prevention for students, teachers, and other school employees.
Present law authorizes charter schools and exempts charters from the laws relative to public schools, except for those specifically listed in present law. Provides that charter schools may employ faculty and staff as it deems necessary and shall notify the employees of the specific benefits they will be offered.

Proposed law retains present law. Further provides that the sick leave benefits provided by charters allow the use of such leave for mental health care. Requires information submitted by the employee relative to sick leave be deemed as protected health information that is confidential and which may be shared only for administration of sick leave policies unless written consent of the individual is obtained.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:437.1(A), (B)(2)(a)(intro. para.), (b), (c), (e), and (g), and (E), and 3996(B)(4); adds R.S. 17:47.1, 437.1(F), 1200(D)-(F), and 3997(A)(1)(d))