

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 921

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Provides relative to adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D) and to enact R.S.  
3 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E), relative to adverse childhood experience in  
4 early childhood education; to provide for definitions; to provide for responsibilities  
5 of the state Department of Education; to require the creation of pilot programs; and  
6 to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D) are hereby amended and  
9 reenacted and R.S. 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E) are hereby enacted to read as  
10 follows:

11 §407.22.1. Adverse childhood experience program; inclusion in early childhood  
12 education; pilot program

13 A.(1) The state Department of Education shall create and annually  
14 implement pilot programs that integrate adverse childhood experience education as  
15 defined in R.S. 17:437.2 into early childhood education.

16 (2) After one year the department shall expand the programs pursuant to  
17 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection by integrating adverse childhood experience family  
18 outreach as defined in R.S. 17:437.2 into early childhood education.

1           B. The department shall report to the legislature by January thirty-first  
 2           annually relative to the status, progress, and effects of the programs implemented  
 3           pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

4                               \*       \*       \*

5           §437.2. Adverse childhood ~~experiences~~; ~~trauma-informed~~ experience education; in-  
 6           service training

7           A. As used in this Section:

8                               \*       \*       \*

9           (2) "~~Trauma-informed~~ Adverse childhood experience education" means a  
 10          school-wide approach to education and a classroom-based approach to student  
 11          learning that recognizes the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences  
 12          in students, families, and staff and responds by integrating knowledge about ~~trauma-~~  
 13          ~~informed~~ adverse childhood experience policies, professional learning, procedures,  
 14          and practices to address the long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences on  
 15          a student's cognitive functioning and his physical, social, emotional, and mental  
 16          well-being.

17          (3) "Adverse childhood experience family outreach" means a school-wide  
 18          approach to parental or care giver outreach in which the parent or care giver receive  
 19          access to information about adverse childhood experiences and their effect on early  
 20          childhood education, and education and resources regarding the manifestations of  
 21          such experiences in adulthood and the intergenerational nature of such experiences  
 22          in families.

23          B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, after  
 24          consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, shall  
 25          develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in recognizing the signs and  
 26          symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of ~~trauma-informed~~  
 27          adverse childhood experience educational practices to address student needs  
 28          resulting from these experiences.

1 (2) The board shall adopt rules to require that, beginning with the 2021-2022  
 2 school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors,  
 3 principals, and other school administrators for whom the training is considered  
 4 beneficial by the board shall annually participate in at least one hour of in-service  
 5 training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of ~~trauma-~~  
 6 ~~informed~~ adverse childhood experience education. The in-service training required  
 7 by this Paragraph shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service training  
 8 will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by each public  
 9 school governing authority.

10 C. The training shall include research-based information regarding the  
 11 following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (3) Best practices for schools and classrooms regarding ~~trauma-informed~~  
 14 ~~approaches to~~ adverse childhood experience considerations in education.

15 \* \* \*

16 D. The state Department of Education shall report to the legislature by  
 17 January thirty-first annually relative to efforts to integrate adverse childhood  
 18 experience educational practices into schools.

19 E. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules  
 20 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions  
 21 of this Section.

22 Section 2. The Department of Education shall begin implementing R.S. 17:407.22.1  
 23 as enacted by this Act in fiscal year 2022-2023.

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**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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HB 921 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

McFarland

**Abstract:** Requires the integration of adverse childhood experience educational practices into early childhood education.

**Adverse childhood experience family outreach**

Present law defines "adverse childhood experiences" and "trauma-informed education" in the context of school employees and best practices for schools and classrooms. Proposed law changes term "trauma-informed education" to "adverse childhood experience education" and adds "adverse childhood education family outreach" to the definitions. Further requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to annually report relative to efforts to integrate such concepts and practices into schools.

**Pilot programs**

Proposed law requires DOE to create and implement pilot programs integrating adverse childhood experience education and adverse childhood experience family outreach into early childhood education. Further requires DOE to annually report relative to the implementation of the programs.

(Amends R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D); Adds R.S. 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E))

**Summary of Amendments Adopted by House**

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

1. Delete requirements relative to monies from the La. Early Childhood Education Fund being used for proposed law purposes.
2. Remove references to "trauma-informed" education from present law and proposed law. Change all references to "trauma-informed" education and outreach to "adverse childhood experience" education and outreach.