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## DIGEST

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HB 222 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Marcelle

**Abstract:** Provides relative to reasons for out-of-school suspension and expulsion for public school students.

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 requires, prior to any out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, or expulsion, that the student be assessed using an instrument approved by the La. Dept. of Health 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), (D)(1), and (J); Adds R.S. 17:416(A)(7); Repeals R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(b) and (c))