

witnesses bullying or receives a firsthand report of bullying from a student and who fails to report such incident to the appropriate school administrator. Further requires the governing authority to suspend the individual who failed to report an incident without pay. Provides that the length of the suspension shall be based on the severity of the bullying incident.

Proposed law requires the state Department of Education to investigate any report of a school administrator or official who has failed to notify a parent or legal guardian of a report of bullying, timely investigate a report of bullying, take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against a student that was determined to have engaged in bullying, or report criminal conduct to the appropriate law enforcement official. Further requires the governing authority to suspend the individual who failed to report an incident without pay. Provides that the length of the suspension shall be based on the severity of the bullying incident.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(b)(ii) (intro para) and (c)(ii)(dd), (2)(a), and (A)(4) (intro para), (b), and (c), 416.13, 416.20(A), and 3996(B)(32); adds R.S. 17:416.14)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Requires BESE to develop rules to ensure that approved nonpublic schools implement policies prohibiting bullying.
2. Provides relative to the crime of failure to report bullying.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Removes crime for failing to report and instead provides that such individuals shall be suspended without pay.
3. Removes making faces from the definition of bullying.