

ACT No. 563

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 921

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

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 programs; and to
6 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 implement a
14 program that integrates adverse childhood experience education as defined in R.S.
15 17:437.2 into early childhood education.

16 (2) The program shall include adverse childhood experience outreach to the
17 parents and legal guardians of children in early childhood centers. The parents and
18 legal guardians shall receive information, education, and resources about adverse
19 childhood experiences and the effect such experiences have on early childhood
20 education and the manifestations of such experiences in adulthood and the
21 intergenerational nature of such experiences in families.

1 B. The department shall report to the legislature by January 31, 2023,
2 relative to the status, progress, and effects of the programs implemented pursuant to
3 Subsection A of this Section.

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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 provide parents and legal guardians access to information about adverse
19 childhood experiences and their effect on early childhood education, and education
20 and resources regarding the manifestations of such experiences in adulthood and the
21 intergenerational nature of such experiences in families.

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

28 (2) The board shall adopt rules to require that, beginning with the 2021-2022
29 school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors,
30 principals, and other school administrators for whom the training is considered

