The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

SB424 Original | 2024 Regular Session | Miguez

Present law provides for each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide age-appropriate and grade-appropriate classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students. Requires that such instruction be integrated into an existing course of study, and specifies that the purpose of such instruction is to promote the protection and safety of children. Provides that such instruction is to be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program developed by the National Rifle Assoc. or a substantially similar program designed to promote firearm accident prevention and safety. Prohibits such instruction from including the expression of value judgments about the use of firearms by teachers or school personnel. Requires the school board to determine the timing and duration of the instruction.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the classroom instruction provisions from an authorization to allow firearm accident prevention and safety to be taught to elementary school students to requiring that such instruction be taught.

Proposed law provides legislative intent as follows:

(1) Firearm accident prevention and safety education programs are a life saving tool for elementary school students.

(2) A nationwide study shows that since 1988, fatal firearm accidents have been reduced by 65% among children who received firearm accident prevention and safety education.

(3) It is the intention of this legislature that proposed law must not create an unfunded mandate on any city, parish, and other local public school board. The school boards are encouraged to use training materials that are available and free of charge.

Proposed law provides that the state Dept. of Education is to identify appropriate free resources and list those resources on La. Dept. of Education's website.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 17:282.5)