

Present law provides with respect to freedom of association and provides that a public college or university cannot deny a belief-based student organization any benefit or privilege available to any other student organization. Present law further provides that no college or university is to deny a belief-based student organization any benefit or privilege available to any other student organization, or otherwise discriminate against a belief-based organization, based on the expression of the organization, including any requirement that the leaders or members of the organization:

- (1) Affirm and adhere to the organization's sincerely held beliefs.
- (2) Comply with the organization's standards of conduct.
- (3) Further the organization's mission or purpose, as defined by the organization.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the term from "belief-based student organization" to "religious or faith-based student organization" and "political or ideological belief-based organization".

Proposed law retains present law and adds that no public college or university is allowed to engage in discrimination on the basis of religion, politics, or ideology against any organizations, officers, leaders or members of the organization in a manner that does any of the following:

- (1) Restricts the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs or restricts the political or ideological belief-based organization's beliefs.
- (2) Requires the organization accept officers, choose leaders, or accept members who are not members of the same religion if to do so would violate the organization's standards of conduct.

Present law provides that present law supersedes and controls to the extent of any conflict with any other provision of law and governs a college or university's obligation to address all forms of discriminatory harassment perpetrated by one student on another student, including sexual harassment.

Proposed law retains present law and clarifies that the protections or remedies available to a student pursuant to any other provision of law are still in effect.

Proposed law provides that each student is free from discrimination on the basis of political ideas, affiliations, or ideologies. Provides that the La. Constitution guarantees that each person, including a college or university student, has the right to individual dignity and further provides that protections are guaranteed against discrimination based upon the student's political ideas or affiliations. Provides that a public college or university management board make reasonable efforts to protect students from discrimination on the basis of political ideas, affiliations, or ideology.

Proposed law prohibits a professor or instructor from imposing the professor's or instructor's political views onto students. Prohibits the professor or instructor from doing any of the following:

- (1) Requiring a student to attend a political protest or engage in any other political activity outside the classroom that aligns with the political views of the professor or instructor.
- (2) Requiring a student to participate in a certain political activity outside the classroom as a condition of obtaining the letter grade to which the student would otherwise be entitled based upon the student's actual academic performance in the class.

Present law requires the colleges and universities to develop policies to enforce present law and to post those policies on the institution's website.

Proposed law retains present law but requires the colleges and universities to also post to the institution's website an advisory that the institution's policy is to be free from political duress to attend off-campus political activities.

Proposed law provides that a college or university is prohibited from denying any student the right to have an attorney present at any disciplinary hearings to which the student is a party if the student desires to engage an attorney at the student's expense.

Proposed law directs the La. State Law Institute to make technical changes.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3399.31(1), (2), and (5), 3399.32(A), 3399.33, 3399.34 (heading and intro para), and 3399.38; adds R.S. 17:3399.34(4),(5), and (6), 3399.39, and 3399.40)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Changes terminology.
2. Makes protection available to all students.
3. Protects the right of students to be free from political duress from professors.
4. Requires colleges and universities to develop policies and post on the internet that students are to be free from political duress to attend political activities outside the classroom.
5. Provides for student due process at disciplinary hearings.
6. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds to the list of activities that are excluded as protected expressive activities, any

activities in which an individual or group is being monetarily funded or organized by any individual, corporation, business, or organization that has been designated as a foreign adversary by the U.S. Dept. of State.