

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 821

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:1216 and to repeal R.S. 29:726.5, 726.5.1, and 726.6, relative to school and
3 nonprofit security; to establish the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools within the
4 Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice;
5 to provide for duties, powers, administration, cooperative authority, procurement
6 authority, data governance, contract and license continuity, and an advisory council;
7 to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 15:1216 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1216. Louisiana Center for Safe Schools

11 A. The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools, referred to in this Section as the
12 "center", is hereby established within the Louisiana Commission on Law
13 Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

14 B. The center shall administer school and nonprofit security programs
15 formerly provided pursuant to Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

16 C. The center shall do all of the following:

17 (1) Identify and prioritize resources available to improve the safety and
18 security of schools of this state and nonprofit organizations.

19 (2) Facilitate the collection and dissemination of information on safety
20 vulnerabilities, safety needs, training standards, best practices, and available funding
21 programs.

22 (3) Develop, in consultation with the State Board of Elementary and
23 Secondary Education, a comprehensive statewide school safety framework, including
24 behavioral threat assessment models and trauma-informed support practices.

1 (4) Assist schools in developing and revising crisis management and
2 emergency response plans required pursuant to R.S. 17:416.16.

3 (5) Coordinate with the state Department of Education and other appropriate
4 state agencies to ensure awareness of available safety resources and incorporation
5 of best practices.

6 (6) Provide training and technical assistance to schools, school governing
7 authorities, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities on issues relating
8 to school and nonprofit security, including emergency operations planning,
9 emergency drills, threat assessment, facility security, digital safety, vulnerability
10 assessments, and hazard mitigation.

11 (7) Facilitate consistent and comprehensive information sharing between
12 schools, communities, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies to
13 promote safety and resiliency.

14 (8) Identify and offer training opportunities relating to school resource
15 officers and other personnel assigned to school and nonprofit security functions.

16 (9) Administer systems and coordinated processes relating to threat
17 assessment, violence prevention, risk mitigation, suicide prevention and intervention,
18 emergency preparedness, and response coordination.

19 D. The center may acquire, develop, license, hold, operate, maintain,
20 administer, and make available systems, platforms, tools, subscriptions, and related
21 infrastructure reasonably necessary to carry out its duties and may make such
22 systems available to authorized participants pursuant to agreements consistent with
23 applicable law.

24 E. The center may enter cooperative agreements, intergovernmental
25 agreements, cooperative endeavor agreements, contracts, or other lawful
26 arrangements with public entities or governmental bodies as necessary to carry out
27 its duties.

28 F. The center may apply for, receive, administer, and implement programs
29 supported by state, federal, interstate, or other lawful funding sources and may

1 expend such funds and carry out programmatic requirements consistent with this
2 Section.

3 G. The center may utilize cooperative or intergovernmental contracts
4 authorized under state or federal law and existing statewide contracts to acquire
5 systems and services necessary to implement this Section. All procurements shall
6 be conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal procurement law.

7 H. The center shall adopt and maintain written policies governing data
8 management, confidentiality, access controls, authorized participation, and
9 compliance with applicable state and federal privacy law. Any public records
10 exemptions applicable to school security plans, critical incident data, or related
11 security information shall continue to apply to data and systems administered
12 pursuant to this Section.

13 I. The center may establish and administer emergency notification systems
14 and anonymous reporting systems to enhance school and nonprofit security.

15 J. The center shall provide an annual report to the governor, the State Board
16 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the House Committee on Education, the
17 Senate Education Committee, the House Committee on the Administration of
18 Criminal Justice, and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B regarding the status of
19 school and nonprofit security initiatives and the activities of the center.

20 K. Nothing in this Section shall supersede the constitutional authority of the
21 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

22 L. The center shall coordinate with the Governor's Office of Homeland
23 Security and Emergency Preparedness, or its successor, regarding school-related
24 critical incident mapping and emergency response planning.

25 M.(1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Commission on Law
26 Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice the School and Nonprofit
27 Security Advisory Council, referred to in this Subsection as the "council".

28 (2) The council shall consist of the following members:

29 (a) The executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law
30 Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, or his designee.

- 1 (b) The superintendent of the state Department of Education, or his designee.
- 2 (c) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
- 3 (d) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his
 4 designee.
- 5 (e) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, or his designee.
- 6 (f) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his
 7 designee.
- 8 (g) The executive director of a statewide association of chiefs of police, or
 9 his designee.
- 10 (h) A representative of a statewide association of school boards, appointed
 11 by that association.
- 12 (i) A representative of a statewide association of school principals or
 13 superintendents, appointed by that association.
- 14 (j) The chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice,
 15 or his designee.
- 16 (k) The chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, or his designee.
- 17 (l) The executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, or his
 18 designee.
- 19 (m) The director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and
 20 Emergency Preparedness, or his designee.
- 21 (3) The council shall elect a chair from among its members in accordance
 22 with rules adopted by the council.
- 23 (4) A majority of the appointed members constitutes a quorum.
- 24 (5) The council shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more frequently
 25 as determined by the council.
- 26 (6) The council shall do all of the following:
- 27 (a) Review and formally endorse statewide school and nonprofit security
 28 frameworks developed by the center.

1 **(b) Adopt formal recommendations regarding interagency coordination,**
 2 **threat assessment standards, training alignment, emergency preparedness, and**
 3 **programmatic implementation.**

4 **(c) Make formal recommendations regarding the establishment, design,**
 5 **administration, and funding priorities of grant programs relating to school and**
 6 **nonprofit security.**

7 **(d) Issue an annual report, no later than July first, to the governor and to the**
 8 **legislature regarding school and nonprofit security initiatives and recommendations**
 9 **of the council.**

10 **(7) The council shall not enter into contracts, expend funds, procure goods**
 11 **or services, or promulgate administrative rules. Implementation authority shall**
 12 **remain with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of**
 13 **Criminal Justice through the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools.**

14 **N.(1) The council established pursuant to this Section shall be the successor**
 15 **entity to the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security previously**
 16 **created pursuant to R.S. 29:726.5.**

17 **(2) All powers, duties, functions, records, reports, recommendations, data**
 18 **studies, pending matters, officers, and other actions of the prior commission are**
 19 **transferred to and shall continue in effect under the council established by this**
 20 **Section.**

21 Section 2. R.S. 29:726.5, 726.5.1, and 726.6 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

22 Section 3. Any member serving on the Louisiana Commission on School and
 23 Nonprofit Security, whose position corresponds to a position on the School and Nonprofit
 24 Security Advisory Council as created by this Act, shall continue to serve in the same
 25 capacity on the newly created council on the effective date of this Act. All other positions
 26 of the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security shall be eliminated on the
 27 effective date of this Act.

28 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor, or, if not
 29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 30 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____