

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 624

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to emergency operations plans at public schools

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Instead of requiring school safety questionnaires to be submitted to the state Dept. of Education and the La. Center for Safe Schools not later than 60 instructional days into the school year, requires submission at a date and frequency to be determined.
2. Add requirement that classroom doors with locks be in compliance with legislatively enacted code requirements.
3. Reinstates present law requiring that each plan provide that a locked door shall not obstruct egress.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for school "crisis management and response" plans. Proposed law instead provides for school "emergency operations" plans. Present law requires local superintendents to report to public school governing authorities on the status of each school's plan. Proposed law instead requires schools and districts to complete school safety questionnaires and submit them to the state Dept. of Education and the La. Center for Safe Schools and requires both the school-level and district-level questionnaires to be submitted to the department and the center at a date and frequency to be determined.

Proposed law requires school emergency preparedness exercises to be classified as either discussion-based exercises or operations-based exercises and gives examples of each.

Present law provides that classroom doors with locks shall be in compliance with all fire safety standards promulgated by the office of state fire marshal. Proposed law additionally requires compliance with legislatively enacted code requirements.

Present law requires that each plan provide that a locked door shall not obstruct egress. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires that doors shall remain locked during instructional time. Proposed law instead provides that all school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked and secured to prevent entry into the room when it is occupied by students, except between class periods. Provides that if a classroom or other instructional space must be left unlocked or open for any other reason, the door must be actively staffed by an authorized person standing or seated at the door.

Present law requires each principal to keep a copy of the approved plan in his office and provide a copy to the president of the local school board, the local school superintendent, the chief of police and local fire chief, the state Dept. of Education, and the La. Center for Safe Schools. Proposed law removes the requirement that he provide a copy to such department and center and instead requires that it be accessible to them on request.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.16(A)(1)(a)-(c), (2), and (4), (B)(2) and (3), (C), (D)(1), (F), (G)(intro. para.), and (J) and 3996(B)(33); Repeals R.S. 17:416.16(G)(4) and (5))