

Existing law (R.S. 17:492(A)) provides that school bus operators shall serve a probationary term of three years. Authorizes local school boards to dismiss any operator during his probationary term upon the written recommendation of the local superintendent accompanied by valid reasons. Provides that at the end of the probationary term, a school bus operator employed prior to July 1, 2012, shall get tenure unless found unsatisfactory by the school board. Provides that a school bus operator hired on or after July 1, 2012, shall not be eligible for tenure and may be removed from his position as provided by the personnel policy of the employing school board.

New law requires the immediate dismissal of a probationary school bus operator and the immediate termination of school bus operator hired on or after July 1, 2012, if he is convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a violation of a local ordinance that prohibits operating a vehicle while intoxicated or any of the following existing law offenses, regardless of whether the violation occurred while the operator was performing an official duty or responsibility as a school bus operator at the time of the offense:

- (1) R.S. 14:98, operating a vehicle while intoxicated.
- (2) R.S. 14:32.1, vehicular homicide.
- (3) R.S. 14:32.8(A)(2), third degree feticide.
- (4) R.S. 14:39.1, vehicular negligent injuring.
- (5) R.S. 14:39.2, first degree vehicular negligent injuring.

Existing law (R.S. 17:493(A) and (C)) provides that a tenured school bus operator shall not be removed from his position except for reasons specified in existing law including but not limited to drunkenness while on duty, and then only if found guilty after a hearing by the employing school board. Provides for removal, hearing, and reinstatement procedures if a tenured school bus operator is found guilty by a school board of any charge specified in existing law and ordered removed or disciplined by the board. New law adds as a grounds for removal, a conviction of or plea of nolo contendere to a violation of a local ordinance that prohibits operating a vehicle while intoxicated or existing law (relative to operating a vehicle while intoxicated), regardless of whether the violation occurred while the operator was performing an official duty or responsibility as a school bus operator at the time of the offense.

New law does not apply to convictions and pleas occurring prior to July 1, 2013.

Effective July 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 17:492(A) and (D)(2) and 493(A) and (C))