

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

CURRICULA: Provides relative to instruction on dating violence in public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:81(T)(3) and (4), relative to instruction in public schools regarding dating
3 violence; to require school governing authorities to provide instruction to certain
4 school employees and information to the parents of certain students regarding dating
5 violence; to require the inclusion of information on dating violence in student codes
6 of conduct; to require school boards to collect data and local superintendents to
7 provide reports relative to dating violence; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:81(T)(3) and (4) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §81. General powers of local public school boards

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14 (3) The governing authority of each public school enrolling students in
15 grades seven through twelve shall:

16 (a) At the beginning of each school year, provide instruction to all school
17 employees having contact with students in such grades relative to the definition of
18 dating violence, dating violence warning signs, and how to properly address
19 suspected or reported dating violence involving students, including but not limited

1 to counseling and notification of law enforcement, and provide information relative
2 to dating violence to the parents of students in such grades.

3 (b) Include in student codes of conduct the definition of dating violence,
4 dating violence warning signs, and instructions for reporting or seeking help relative
5 to dating violence.

6 (c) Collect data relative to the number of incidents of dating violence reported
7 to school employees and the actions taken by school employees to assist victims of
8 dating violence.

9 (4)(a) In the spring of each school year, each local superintendent shall make
10 a verbal report at a meeting of the school governing authority that shall include but
11 not be limited to the compliance of each school with the requirements of this Section,
12 aggregate data relative to dating violence, and any recommendations for reducing
13 dating violence among students.

14 (b) For the purposes of this Paragraph, for a charter school, the "local
15 superintendent" shall mean the chief executive officer of the school or other
16 employee holding an equivalent position.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Dixon HB No. 178

Abstract: Relative to dating violence, regarding which present law requires instruction for public school students in grades 7-12, proposed law requires public school governing authorities to provide instruction to school employees and information to parents, include information in student codes of conduct, and collect data and requires local superintendents to make annual reports.

Present law requires public school governing authorities to provide to students in grades seven through 12 enrolled in Health Education instruction relative to dating violence. Specifies that such instruction shall include but need not be limited to the definition of dating violence, dating violence warning signs, and characteristics of healthy relationships.

Proposed law further requires the governing authority of each public school enrolling students in grades seven through 12:

- (1) To provide at the beginning of each school year:

- (a) Instruction to all school employees having contact with students in such grades relative to the definition of dating violence, dating violence warning signs, and how to address suspected or reported dating violence involving students, including counseling and notification of law enforcement.
 - (b) Information relative to dating violence to the parents of students in such grades.
- (2) To include in student codes of conduct the definition of dating violence, dating violence warning signs, and instructions for reporting or seeking help relative to dating violence.
 - (3) To collect data relative to the number of incidents of dating violence reported and the actions taken by school employees to assist victims of dating violence.

Proposed law requires each local superintendent, in the spring of each school year, to make a verbal report at a meeting of the school governing authority that includes the compliance of each school with proposed law, aggregate data relative to dating violence, and any recommendations for reducing dating violence among students.

Present law and proposed law are applicable to all public schools enrolling students in grades seven through 12, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(T)(3) and (4))