
 DIGEST

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SB 31 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Morrell

Present law authorizes public elementary and secondary schools to offer instruction in sex education in grades seven and above, except in Orleans Parish, where the school board may offer such instruction in grades three and above. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits students from being tested, quizzed, or surveyed about their personal beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion. Proposed law adds an exception to present law to authorize public school governing authorities in Orleans Parish to anonymously survey high school students regarding their risk behaviors, including those related to sexual health. Provides that the only such survey that may be administered is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Requires each public school governing authority, at least 45 days before administering the survey, to hold a public meeting to discuss survey contents and to provide copies to parents and legal guardians attending the meeting, or upon request. Allows a parent or legal guardian to have his child excused from participation in the survey. Provides that information collected in the survey shall be reported in the aggregate and that school level data shall be confidential, shall not be considered a public record, and shall not be subject to the Public Records Law.

(Amends R.S. 17:281(A)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Specify that survey is anonymous.
2. Provide parental opt-out from student participation.
3. Provide for aggregate reporting.
4. Provide that school level data are confidential and shall not be a public record.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Require that a student's parent or legal guardian receive a copy of the survey.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill:

1. Provide that only high school students may be surveyed and that the only survey that may be administered is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. Require public meetings prior to survey administration.
3. Add that school level data are not subject to the Public Records Law.