

SENATE BILL NO. 54

BY SENATOR BROOME AND REPRESENTATIVES BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, HUNTER, JAMES, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN AND WOODRUFF

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:416(J) and 3996(B)(39), relative to discipline of students; to prohibit the suspension or expulsion of students in grades prekindergarten through five from school or from riding a school bus for uniform violations; to provide for measures to address unacceptable behavior; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:416(J) and 3996(B)(39) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§416. Discipline of students; suspension; expulsion

\* \* \*

**J.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section or any other provision of law, a student enrolled in grades prekindergarten through five shall not be suspended or expelled from school or suspended from riding on any school bus for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.**

**(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, this Subsection shall apply to charter schools. Furthermore, no charter school shall suggest to a parent that it has the authority to suspend or expel a student for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.**

\* \* \*

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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1                   B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
 2                   except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
 3                   charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
 4                   Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
 5                   exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
 6                   applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
 7                   the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

8   \*           \*           \*

9   (39) Prohibits suspension or expulsion of students in grades  
 10    prekindergarten through five, R.S. 17:416(J).

11   \*           \*           \*

12                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 13                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 14                   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 15                   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 16                   effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_