

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 97

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

CHILDREN/ABUSE: Requires posting of the state child abuse hotline number in all public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:81(Y) and 3996(B)(35), relative to requirements for posting
3 the child abuse hotline number in public schools; to provide that public school
4 governing authorities adopt rules and regulations to require each public school under
5 its jurisdiction to post a sign that contains the state child protection toll-free hotline
6 number; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:81(Y) and 3996(B)(35) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §81. General powers of local public school boards

11 * * *

12 Y.(1) The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary
13 school shall provide age- and grade-appropriate classroom instruction to all students
14 relative to child assault awareness and prevention. Such instruction shall be limited
15 to education on what constitutes abuse or an assault, and how students may safely
16 and confidentially report to a school official the circumstances surrounding any such
17 abuse or assaults.

18 (2) Such instruction shall be integrated into the curriculum of an existing
19 required course, such as health education, physical education, or another required
20 course deemed appropriate by the school governing authority.

1 (3) The governing authority of each public school shall adopt rules and
2 regulations necessary for the implementation of this Subsection. Such rules and
3 regulations shall include a requirement that each public school under its jurisdiction
4 post in a clearly visible location that is readily accessible to students a sign that
5 contains the number for the child protection toll-free hotline operated by the
6 Department of Children and Family Services to receive reports of child abuse and
7 neglect.

8 * * *

9 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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

17 * * *

18 (35) Instruction and hotline number posting requirements relative to child
19 assault awareness and prevention, R.S. 17:81(Y).

20 * * *

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)]

HB 97 Original 2016 Regular Session Smith

Abstract: Requires the posting of the state child protection toll-free hotline number in all public schools.

Present law requires public school governing authorities to provide age- and grade-appropriate classroom instruction relative to child assault awareness and prevention. Requires that instruction be integrated into an existing required course and limits instruction to what constitutes abuse or assault and how students may safely and confidentially report abuse or assault to a school official. Requires such governing authorities to adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of present law, which is applicable to all public schools,

including charter schools. Proposed law adds requirement that such rules and regulations include a requirement that each public school post in a clearly visible location that is readily accessible to students a sign that contains the number for the child protection toll-free hotline operated by the Dept. of Children and Family Services to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.

(Amends R.S. 17:81(Y) and 3996(B)(35))