

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 353

BY SENATOR BISHOP AND REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

SCHOOLS. Provides for the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act. (8/1/16)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:221.7 and 3996(B)(42), relative to dropout prevention programs for high  
3 school students; to provide for the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act;  
4 to provide for a purpose for the Act; to require public high school governing  
5 authorities to adopt policies that support expectant and parenting students; to provide  
6 for reporting requirements and criteria; to provide for an effective date; and to  
7 provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:221.7 and 3996(B)(42) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§221.7. Dropout prevention and recovery for expectant and parenting students**

11 **A. The Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need to ensure that all**  
12 **students graduate from high school, despite the many challenges they may face.**

13 **The legislature acknowledges that pregnancy is consistently the most common**  
14 **family-related reason given by female students who drop out of high school.**

15 **Further, the legislature finds that federal Title IX of the Education**  
16 **Amendments of 1972 protects the rights of expectant and parenting students,**

17 **and encompassed in that protection is the right to a safe and supportive school**

1 environment that promotes high school graduation.

2 B. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 establishes basic legal  
3 obligations of any educational program receiving federal assistance.

4 (4) Reinstating a female student, upon medical release, to the academic  
5 and extracurricular status which she held when her medical leave began.

6 C.(1) Each governing authority of a public secondary school receiving  
7 federal financial assistance shall adopt a policy that complies with the  
8 requirements of federal Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

9 (2) In addition to the basic legal obligations under federal Title IX of the  
10 Education Amendments of 1972, the following key provisions shall be included  
11 in a school governing authority's policy regarding expectant and parenting  
12 students:

13 (a) Maintaining student confidentiality.

14 (b) Ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment.

15 (c) Promoting academic success.

16 (d) Implementing sensible attendance policies.

17 (3) Such policy shall be readily available to the public by posting on the  
18 website of the school or school governing authority, or by other appropriate  
19 means.

20 (4) The Department of Education shall submit a written report to the  
21 Senate and House committees on education and health and welfare at least sixty  
22 days before the 2017 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which shall  
23 include a summary of the aggregate data related to the graduation rate of  
24 expectant and parenting students, and any recommendations for changes in  
25 policy or legislation. However, in no case shall personally identifiable student  
26 information be reported.

27 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

28 \* \* \*

29 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and



general to the Dept. of Education.

3. Deletes the requirement that the report contain information on the level of compliance with proposed law.