

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 424

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ AND REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

SCHOOLS. Provides for firearm accident prevention and safety education for elementary school students. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:282.5, relative to elementary education; to require each city,  
3 parish, and other local public school board to provide classroom instruction  
4 regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students; to  
5 provide for legislative intent; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:282.5 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §282.5. Firearm accident prevention and safety education; authorized instruction;

9 free access to instructional resources

10 A. The legislature finds all of the following:

11 (1) Firearm accident prevention and safety education programs are a life  
12 saving tool for elementary school students.

13 (2) Studies have shown that fatal firearm accidents have been reduced  
14 by sixty-five percent among children who received firearm accident prevention  
15 and safety education.

16 (3) It is the intention of this legislature that this Section shall not create  
17 an unfunded mandate on any city, parish, and other local public school board.

1        **The school boards are encouraged to use training materials that are free of**  
 2        **charge.**

3                **B.** Each city, parish, and other local public school board ~~may~~ **shall** provide  
 4        ~~age-~~ **age-appropriate** and grade-appropriate classroom instruction regarding firearm  
 5        accident prevention and safety to elementary school students.

6                **C.** ~~Such~~ **The** instruction **required in this Section** shall be integrated into an  
 7        existing course of study; and the purpose of ~~such~~ **the** instruction shall be to promote  
 8        the protection and safety of children. ~~Furthermore, such~~ **The** instruction shall adopt  
 9        or be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program, an accident prevention program  
 10       developed by the National Rifle Association, or a substantially similar program, ~~such~~  
 11       **including but not limited to** ~~as~~ the Louisiana Law Enforcement for Gun Safety  
 12       program, designed to promote firearm accident prevention and safety.

13               **D.** ~~Such~~ **Any** instruction **required by this Section** shall not include the  
 14       expression of value judgments about the use of firearms **or firearm safety**  
 15       **instruction** by teachers, school personnel, or any other instructors.

16               **E.** The school board shall determine the timing and duration of such  
 17       instruction.

18               **F. The state Department of Education shall identify appropriate**  
 19       **resources to comply with the provisions of this Section that are free of charge.**  
 20       **Once identified, the free resources shall be listed on the Louisiana Department**  
 21       **of Education's website.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

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Present law provides for each city, parish, and other local public school board to provide age-appropriate and grade-appropriate classroom instruction regarding firearm accident prevention and safety to elementary school students. Requires that such instruction be integrated into an existing course of study, and specifies that the purpose of such instruction is to promote the protection and safety of children. Provides that such instruction is to be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program developed by the National Rifle Assoc. or a substantially similar program designed to promote firearm accident prevention and safety. Prohibits such instruction from including the expression of value judgments about the use of firearms by teachers or school personnel. Requires the school board to determine the

timing and duration of the instruction.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the classroom instruction provisions from an authorization to allow firearm accident prevention and safety to be taught to elementary school students to requiring that such instruction be taught.

Proposed law provides legislative intent as follows:

- (1) Firearm accident prevention and safety education programs are a life saving tool for elementary school students.
- (2) A nationwide study shows that since 1988, fatal firearm accidents have been reduced by 65% among children who received firearm accident prevention and safety education.
- (3) It is the intention of this legislature that proposed law must not create an unfunded mandate on any city, parish, and other local public school board. The school boards are encouraged to use training materials that are available and free of charge.

Proposed law provides that the state Dept. of Education is to identify appropriate free resources and list those resources on La. Dept. of Education's website.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 17:282.5)