

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 428

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER (BY REQUEST)

STUDENTS: Prohibits local public school boards from requiring school uniforms for students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416.7, relative to school uniform requirements; to prohibit a  
3 city, parish, or other local public school board from requiring school uniforms for  
4 students; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:416.7 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §416.7. Dress codes; authorization; notification requirement; school uniforms  
8 prohibited

9 A.~~(1)~~ Each city, parish, or other local public school board may adopt such  
10 rules and regulations as it deems necessary to implement a school dress code, ~~which~~  
11 ~~may include the use of uniforms. Each school may select a uniform for its students~~  
12 ~~and shall display such uniform for a reasonable period prior to the proposed effective~~  
13 ~~date of the dress code.~~

14 ~~(2)~~ If a city, parish, or other local public school board adopts a school dress  
15 code, it shall notify, in writing, the parent or guardian of each student of the dress  
16 code specifications and their effective date.

17 ~~(3)~~ ~~If a city, parish, or other local public school board adopts a new uniform~~  
18 ~~policy or modifies an existing uniform policy, it shall notify, in writing, the parent~~  
19 ~~or guardian of each student of the uniform policy adoption or uniform policy~~

1 ~~modification at least sixty days prior to the effective date of the policy or~~  
2 ~~modification to the policy.~~

3 B.(1) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a city, parish, or other local  
4 public school board from requiring a new dress code ~~or uniform policy~~ or modifying  
5 an existing dress code ~~or uniform policy~~ without providing the required notice in the  
6 event of what the school board deems an emergency. For the purposes of this  
7 Subsection, "emergency" means an actual or imminent threat to health or safety  
8 which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

9 C. A city, parish, or other local public school board shall not require school  
10 uniforms for students.

11 ~~(2)~~ D. Nothing in this Section shall require the additional expenditure of  
12 school or school board funds.

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#### 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)]

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HB 428 Original

2016 Regular Session

Broadwater

**Abstract:** Prohibits local public school boards from requiring school uniforms for students.

Present law authorizes local public school boards to implement school dress codes for students including the use of uniforms. Requires the displaying of any uniform selected and requires notification to parents of any dress code specifications and uniform policy adoption or modifications. Permits school boards to require new or modified dress codes or uniform policies without notifying parents in cases of emergency. Provides that present law shall not require additional expenditures of school or school boards funds. Proposed law prohibits school boards from requiring uniforms for students. Removes the authority for school boards to adopt rules and regulations for the use of school uniforms and the authority to select uniforms. Further removes the requirements that school boards display uniforms and notify parents about the uniforms. Retains present law relative to dress codes.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.7)