

ACT No. 472

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 516

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANDRY AND FREEMAN

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:221.8 and 3996(B)(67), relative to students; to require the governing
3 authority of each public high school to adopt policies relative to students who are
4 pregnant or parenting; to provide that policies shall address attendance,
5 breastfeeding, and child care; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Support for Pregnant
8 and Parenting Students Act".

9 Section 2. R.S. 17:221.8 and 3996(B)(67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §221.8. Pregnant or parenting students; policies; attendance, breastfeeding, and
11 child care

12 A. The governing authority of each public high school shall adopt an
13 attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that shall:

14 (1)(a) Excuse absences due to conditions related to pregnancy or parenting,
15 including but not limited to labor, delivery, and recovery; prenatal and postnatal
16 medical appointments and other medically necessary pregnancy-related absences;
17 a child's illness or medical appointment; and legal appointments related to pregnancy
18 or parenting, including but not limited to adoption, custody, and visitation.

19 (b) Provide at least ten days of excused absences for both a parenting mother
20 and a parenting father after the birth of a child.

21 (2) At the conclusion of any pregnancy-related or parenting-related period
22 of absence, allow a student to make up missed work in a reasonable amount of time

1 that shall not be less than the number of days the student was absent and choose from
2 various options to make up the work, including retaking a semester, participating in
3 an online course credit recovery program, being granted six weeks to continue at the
4 same pace and finish at a later date, or receiving home-based instruction services.

5 (3) Provide that for absences or checkouts for reasons provided in Paragraph
6 (1) of this Subsection, a school shall accept either of the following:

7 (a) Documentation from a physician.

8 (b) Permission from a parent or legal guardian.

9 B. The governing authority of each public high school shall adopt a policy
10 relative to breastfeeding that shall:

11 (1) Provide for reasonable accommodations for a lactating student on a
12 school campus to express breast milk, breastfeed, or address other breastfeeding
13 needs, which shall include, at a minimum:

14 (a) Access to a private and secure room other than a restroom to express
15 breast milk or breastfeed a child.

16 (b) Permission to bring a breast pump and any other equipment used to
17 express breast milk to school.

18 (c) Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used
19 to express breast milk.

20 (d) Access to a place to store breastmilk safely.

21 (2) Provide that a lactating student shall be provided a reasonable amount of
22 time to accommodate the need to express breast milk or breastfeed a child while at
23 school.

24 (3) Provide that a student shall not incur an academic penalty as a result of
25 use, during the school day, of the reasonable accommodations specified in this
26 Subsection and shall be provided the opportunity to make up any work missed due
27 to such use.

28 C. If a public high school provides access to child care either on campus or
29 off campus, the school's governing authority shall adopt a policy for notifying
30 students of such child care options, which shall be available to both student mothers

1 and student fathers. If a public high school does not provide such child care, its
2 governing authority shall adopt a policy for assisting parenting students in
3 identifying child care providers.

4 * * *

5 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

6 * * *

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

14 * * *

15 (67) Students who are pregnant or parenting, R.S. 17:221.8.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____