

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 384

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/DISCIPLINE: Provides relative to disciplinary penalties for certain public school students found to be in possession of certain substances on school property

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a) and (b), relative to discipline of students in
3 public schools; to provide for discipline of certain students found to be in possession
4 of certain substances on school property; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a) and (b) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

8 §416. Discipline of students; suspension; expulsion

9 * * *

10 C.

11 * * *

12 (2)(a)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section and
13 except as provided in Item (ii) of this Subparagraph, any student in grades six
14 through twelve who is found guilty of being in possession of a firearm, a knife with
15 a blade equal to or in excess of two and one-half inches in length, or any illegal
16 narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or
17 at a school-sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1)
18 of this Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of four
19 complete school semesters and shall be referred to the district attorney for
20 appropriate action. However, the superintendent may modify the length of such

1 minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such
2 modification is in writing.

3 (ii) A student found guilty of being in possession of marijuana,
4 tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof shall not be subject to the
5 provisions of Item (i) of this Subparagraph unless it is the second or subsequent
6 occurrence.

7 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, any
8 student in grades six through twelve found guilty of being in possession of tobacco,
9 alcohol, or vaping product or found guilty on the first occurrence of being in
10 possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof
11 on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event may be
12 recommended for expulsion.

13 * * *

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 384 Engrossed 2025 Regular Session Bryant

Abstract: Provides for disciplinary penalties for certain students found guilty of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or chemical derivatives thereof on school property.

Present law provides that a student in grades six through 12 who is found guilty of being in possession of any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete school semesters and referred to the district attorney. Proposed law provides that for such students found guilty of possessing marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof, present law penalties only apply after the second or subsequent occurrence.

Present law provides that any student in grades six through 12 found guilty of being in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or vaping product on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event may be recommended for expulsion. Proposed law applies present law to students found guilty on the first occurrence of being in possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof.

(Amends R.S. 17:416(C)(2)(a) and (b))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Remove proposed law penalties for possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or any chemical derivative thereof on school property and instead:
 - (a) Apply present law that requires expulsion and referral to the district attorney only to the second or subsequent occurrence of the possession.
 - (b) Apply present law that allows a student to be recommended for expulsion to the first occurrence of the possession.