



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 379**

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5425

*House of Representatives, April 8, 2002*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. STAPLES of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING BULLYING BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) Each local and regional  
2 board of education shall develop a policy to address the problem of  
3 bullying in its schools. Such policy shall include provisions for (1)  
4 anonymous reporting by students of acts of bullying and investigation  
5 by school personnel of such reports, (2) an intervention strategy for  
6 school staff who witness acts of bullying, (3) the inclusion of language  
7 in student codes of conduct concerning bullying behavior, and (4)  
8 notification to the parents or guardians of all students involved in any  
9 verified acts of bullying including a description of the response of  
10 school personnel to such an act and any consequences that may result  
11 from further acts of bullying.

This act shall take effect as follows:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
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**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

ED

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Effect</b>	<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>FY 03 \$</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>
STATE MANDATE - Cost	Local and Regional School Districts	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

This bill results in minimal costs to local and regional school districts and to some degree the State Department of Education (vocational-technical schools). The minimal costs are associated with increased paperwork in developing a policy addressing bullying and in the carrying out of such policies that must include certain provisions as dictated in the bill. The minimal costs associated with the bill are absorbable in the budgets of all involved school districts.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5425

**AN ACT CONCERNING BULLYING BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires all school boards to develop a policy addressing bullying. The policy must provide for (1) anonymous reporting by students, (2) school personnel to investigate anonymous reports, (3) a strategy for school staff to intervene when they witness bullying, (4) language in student codes of conduct about bullying, and (5) notice to parents or guardians of bullying. The notice must go to the parents or guardians of all students involved in a verified act of bullying. It must describe the school's response and any consequences that may result from further acts of bullying.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002

**BACKGROUND*****Related Law***

PA 01-1, June Special Session, required the State Department of Education to establish a competitive grant program, within available funds, to help school districts in, among other things, (1) eliminating student bullying, (2) developing safe school environments where children can learn without fear of physical or verbal harm or intimidation, (3) developing activities encouraging respect, (4) reducing early youth aggression, and (5) establishing student conflict and intervention policies and strategies.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 0

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 27 Nay 1