



House of Representatives

File No. 607

General Assembly

February Session, 2002

(Reprint of File No. 379)

Substitute House Bill No. 5425
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedules "B", "C" and "D"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 2, 2002

AN ACT CONCERNING BULLYING BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS AND CONCERNING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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, for use on and after
3 February 1, 2003, to address the existence of bullying in its schools.
4 Such policy shall: (1) Enable students to anonymously report acts of
5 bullying to teachers and school administrators, (2) enable the parents
6 or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,
7 (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying
8 or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators,
9 (4) require school administrators to investigate any written reports
10 filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any
11 anonymous reports, (5) include an intervention strategy for school staff
12 to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion of language in
13 student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7) require the parents
14 or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and
15 the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were

16 directed to be notified, and (8) require each school to maintain a list of
 17 the number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such
 18 list available for public inspection. The notification required pursuant
 19 to subdivision (7) of this section shall include a description of the
 20 response of school staff to such acts and any consequences that may
 21 result from the commission of further acts of bullying. For purposes of
 22 this section, "bullying" means any overt acts by a student or a group of
 23 students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule,
 24 humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds or
 25 at a school-sponsored activity which acts are repeated against the same
 26 student over time.

27 Sec. 2. Section 10-230 of the general statutes is amended by adding
 28 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

29 (NEW) (c) Each local and regional board of education shall develop
 30 a policy to ensure that time is available each school day for students in
 31 the schools under its jurisdiction to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance".
 32 The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to require any
 33 person to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance".

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Effect	Municipalities	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
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.

House "B", "C" and "D" are technical and/or have no fiscal impact.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sHB 5425 (as amended by House "B," "C," and "D")*

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

This bill requires all school boards to develop a policy (1) addressing bullying and (2) ensuring that time is available during each school day for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The bill states that it is not to be construed to require anyone to recite the pledge.

The bill defines bullying as repeated, overt acts by one or more students on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity that are intended to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate another student.

Each district's bullying policies must:

1. permit anonymous reports of bullying by students and written reports by parents or guardians,
2. require teachers and other school staff to notify school administrators of bullying acts they witness and students' reports they receive
3. require school administrators to investigate parents' written reports and review students' anonymous reports,
4. require each school to maintain a publicly available list of the number of verified bullying acts that occurred there,
5. include an intervention strategy for school staff to deal with bullying,
6. include language about bullying in student codes of conduct, and
7. require notice to parents or guardians of all students involved in a verified act of bullying. The notice to parents must describe the school's response and any consequences that may result from further acts of bullying.

The policy must be developed for use starting February 1, 2003.

*House Amendment "B" adds the definition of bullying, requires

school policies to include provisions (1) for parents and school staff to report bullying and (2) for schools to keep public lists of verified bullying, and requires the policies to be developed for use starting October 1, 2002.

*House Amendment "C" adds the Pledge of Allegiance provision.

*House Amendment "D" changes the starting date for bullying policy use to February 1, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002 for the bullying policy, October 1, 2002 for the Pledge of Allegiance policy.

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.

Legislative History

The House referred this bill (File 379) to the Appropriations Committee on April 12. That committee reported it favorably on April 16.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 11 Nay 0

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 51 Nay 1