



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5504

LCO No. 1831

01831_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:

(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) The Department of
2 Education shall conduct an analysis of safe learning policies and
3 practices in school districts, including policies developed pursuant to
4 section 10-222d of the general statutes to address bullying. The
5 analysis shall (1) examine the effectiveness of such policies and
6 practices in reducing bullying and harassment in schools, (2) report on
7 the relationship of bullying to the incidence of school dropout and
8 student suicide, (3) document school districts' articulated needs for
9 technical assistance and training related to safe learning and bullying,
10 (4) report on the prevention and intervention strategies utilized by
11 schools to reduce the incidence of bullying, and (5) report on the
12 department's response to the needs identified in subdivision (3) of this
13 subsection. On or before January 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, the
14 department shall submit a report on the analysis, in accordance with
15 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
16 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to

17 education and to the select committee of the General Assembly having
18 cognizance of matters relating to children.

19 (b) The department may accept private donations for purposes of
20 this section.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) There is established an
22 independent Office of School Bullying Ombudsman which shall be
23 within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only.

24 (b) The office shall be under the direction of a School Bullying
25 Ombudsman who shall be appointed by the Governor, with the
26 approval of the General Assembly. The ombudsman shall be an elector
27 of the state with expertise and experience in the fields related to
28 education and school bullying.

29 (c) The ombudsman shall:

30 (1) Endeavor to resolve complaints concerning bullying in public
31 schools, and receive recommendations from the public regarding the
32 reduction of bullying in public schools;

33 (2) Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education
34 concerning issues relating to bullying in public schools;

35 (3) Report monthly to the State Board of Education regarding the
36 activities of the office; and

37 (4) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, submit a
38 report on the activities of the office, in accordance with section 11-4a of
39 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
40 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, and the
41 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
42 matters relating to children.

43 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one million dollars is
44 appropriated to the Department of Education, from the General Fund,

45 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose of funding
46 grants pursuant to section 10-263e of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To examine the effectiveness of school responses to bullying, establish a state ombudsperson to resolve complaints related to bullying, and fund grants to create safe learning environments in schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]