



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 268**

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1094

*Senate, April 3, 2007*

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL BULLYING.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and  
4 implement a policy, for use on and after February 1, 2003, to address  
5 the existence of bullying in its schools. Such policy shall: (1) Enable  
6 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school  
7 administrators and require students to be notified annually of the  
8 process by which they may make such reports, (2) enable the parents  
9 or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,  
10 (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying  
11 or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators,  
12 (4) require school administrators to investigate any written reports  
13 filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any  
14 anonymous reports, (5) include an intervention strategy for school staff  
15 to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion of language in

16 student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7) require the parents  
17 or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and  
18 the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were  
19 directed to be notified, (8) require each school to maintain a list of the  
20 number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list  
21 available for public inspection, and (9) direct the development of case-  
22 by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying  
23 against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying  
24 incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and  
25 discipline. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (7) of this  
26 section shall include a description of the response of school staff to  
27 such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission  
28 of further acts of bullying. For purposes of this section, "bullying"  
29 means any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed  
30 against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or  
31 intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school-  
32 sponsored activity or on a school bus, [ which acts are repeated  
33 against the same student over time.] Such policies may include  
34 provisions addressing bullying outside of the school setting if it has a  
35 direct and negative impact on a student's academic performance or  
36 safety in school.

37 (b) If the Department of Education finds that a local or regional  
38 board of education has failed to implement the policy required  
39 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the department shall  
40 withhold from the grant paid pursuant to section 10-262i to the town  
41 or regional school districts an amount not less than two thousand five  
42 hundred dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars.

43 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
44 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
45 *1, 2007*):

46 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-  
47 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil  
48 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or

49 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such  
50 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)  
51 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)  
52 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,  
53 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental  
54 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be  
55 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the  
56 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually  
57 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in  
58 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth  
59 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and  
60 gifted and talented children and children who may require special  
61 education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit  
62 hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for  
63 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs  
64 children in a regular classroom, (4) school violence prevention, [and]  
65 conflict resolution and prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection  
66 (a) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, (5) cardiopulmonary  
67 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer  
68 and other information technology as applied to student learning and  
69 classroom instruction, communications and data management, (7) the  
70 teaching of the language arts, reading and reading readiness for  
71 teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second  
72 language acquisition in districts required to provide a program of  
73 bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of  
74 Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available  
75 materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of  
76 education to include: (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the  
77 historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-  
78 American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American  
79 history; (F) personal financial management; and (G) topics approved  
80 by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of  
81 education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this  
82 subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-222d
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-220a(a)

**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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 08 \$</b>	<b>FY 09 \$</b>
Local and Regional School Districts	Revenue Loss	Potential	Potential

**Explanation**

This bill results in a potential revenue loss to local and regional school districts as it requires the State Department of Education to withhold between \$2,500 and \$10,000 in ECS payments to districts that fail to implement bullying policies. There is no cost to local and regional school districts in adding bullying prevention training to their in-service offerings as all districts are already required to have policies on bullying and thus staff would be trained according to the existing policies.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1094*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL BULLYING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill specifically requires local and regional boards of education to implement policies to address bullying in schools. Current law requires the boards to develop the policies for use on and after February 1, 2003. The bill requires the State Department of Education to withhold between \$2,500 and \$10,000 in Education Cost Sharing funds from a district if it finds that the district has failed to implement the policy. It expands the in-service training topics that boards must provide to include bullying prevention.

Current law defines bullying as overt acts by one or more students intended to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate that are repeated over time against another student on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity, or on a school bus. The bill eliminates the requirement that the acts be repeated against the same student over time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

**BACKGROUND*****Bullying Policies***

The law requires board policies to:

1. enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school administrators,
2. enable parents or guardians to report bullying to teachers and school administrators,
3. require school staff who witness or receive reports of bullying to

- notify school administrators,
4. require school personnel to investigate anonymous reports,
  5. include a strategy for school staff to intervene when they witness bullying,
  6. include language in student codes of conduct about bullying,
  7. provide notice to parents or guardians of bullying,
  8. require each school to keep a list of verified acts of bullying available for public inspection, and
  9. provide for case-by-case interventions to address (1) repeated bullying incidents against a certain person or (2) recurrent bullying by a certain person.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29    Nay 1    (03/19/2007)