



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Raised Bill No. 1094**

LCO No. 3879

\*03879\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**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 Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 a  
4 policy, for use on and after February 1, 2003, to address the existence  
5 of bullying in its schools. Such policy shall: (1) Enable students to  
6 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) (1) Any teacher or other staff who fails to notify school  
38 administrators of witnessed or reported acts of bullying in accordance  
39 with the provisions of the policy required pursuant to subdivision (3)  
40 of subsection (a) of this section or any school administrator who fails to  
41 investigate any written report in accordance with the provisions of the  
42 policy required pursuant to subdivision (4) of said subsection (a) shall  
43 be fined not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than five  
44 hundred dollars.

45 (2) The Department of Education may withhold from the grant paid  
46 pursuant to section 10-262i to the town or regional school districts an  
47 amount equal to ten thousand dollars if the department finds that a  
48 local board of education for the town or a regional board of education  
49 of which the town is a member failed to comply with the provisions set  
50 forth in subsection (a) of this section.

51       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Commissioner of Education  
52 shall develop and administer a grant program, within available  
53 appropriations, to provide funding to local and regional boards of  
54 education for training and materials for an antibullying program.  
55 Grant recipients shall use the training and materials to aid teachers,  
56 administrators and students to plan and facilitate school-wide  
57 assemblies involving group discussions or open microphone sessions  
58 with students who have witnessed, been subjected to or responded to  
59 acts of bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d of the  
60 general statutes, as amended by this act.

61       Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
62 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
63 *1, 2007*):

64       (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-  
65 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil  
66 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or  
67 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such  
68 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)  
69 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)  
70 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,  
71 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental  
72 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be  
73 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the  
74 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually  
75 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in  
76 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth  
77 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and  
78 gifted and talented children and children who may require special  
79 education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit  
80 hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for  
81 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs  
82 children in a regular classroom, (4) school violence prevention, [and]  
83 conflict resolution and prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection

84 (a) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, (5) cardiopulmonary  
85 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer  
86 and other information technology as applied to student learning and  
87 classroom instruction, communications and data management, (7) the  
88 teaching of the language arts, reading and reading readiness for  
89 teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second  
90 language acquisition in districts required to provide a program of  
91 bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of  
92 Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available  
93 materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of  
94 education to include: (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the  
95 historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-  
96 American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American  
97 history; (F) personal financial management; and (G) topics approved  
98 by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of  
99 education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this  
100 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>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-220a(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To broaden the definition of "bullying", to add a fine for noncompliance with the reporting provisions of antibullying policies, to withhold education cost sharing funds from districts that fail to develop and adhere to district-wide antibullying policies, to provide funds for school districts to have school-wide antibullying assemblies and to require in-service training for teachers and administrators in the prevention of bullying.

*[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.]*