



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5500

LCO No. 1959

* HB05500KIDED_022908 *

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF BULLYING POLICIES
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF 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, 2008*) (a) The Department of
2 Education shall conduct an analysis of safe learning policies and
3 practices in school districts, including bullying policies developed
4 pursuant to section 10-222d of the general statutes, as amended by this
5 act. For purposes of such analysis, the department shall (1) examine
6 the effectiveness of such policies and practices in reducing bullying
7 and harassment in schools, and reducing cyberbullying, (2) examine
8 the relationship between bullying and the student dropout rate and the
9 incidence of student suicide, (3) document school districts' articulated
10 needs for technical assistance and training related to safe learning and
11 bullying, (4) collect information on the prevention and intervention
12 strategies utilized by schools to reduce the incidence of bullying and
13 evaluate such strategies, (5) investigate the existence and effect of
14 cyberbullying, and (6) document the department's response to the
15 needs identified in subdivision (3) of this subsection. For purposes of
16 this section "bullying" and "cyberbullying" have the same meanings as

17 provided in section 10-222d of the general statutes, as amended by this
18 act. On or before January 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the
19 department shall submit a report on the analysis, in accordance with
20 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
21 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
22 education and to the select committee of the General Assembly having
23 cognizance of matters relating to children.

24 (b) The department may accept private donations for purposes of
25 this section.

26 Sec. 2. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

28 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall develop a policy
29 [for use on and after February 1, 2003,] to address the existence of
30 bullying and cyberbullying in its schools and against its students
31 outside of the school setting. Such policy shall: (1) Enable students to
32 anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school
33 administrators and require students to be notified annually of the
34 process by which they may make such reports, (2) enable the parents
35 or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,
36 (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying
37 or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators,
38 (4) require school administrators to investigate any written reports
39 filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any
40 anonymous reports, (5) include an intervention strategy for school staff
41 to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion of language in
42 student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7) require the parents
43 or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and
44 the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were
45 directed to be notified, (8) require each school to maintain a list of the
46 number of student reports of bullying, including reports received
47 through any anonymous telephone call, written reports of suspected
48 bullying submitted by parents or guardians of students and verified
49 acts of bullying in such school and make such list available for public

50 inspection, [and] (9) direct the development of case-by-case
 51 interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a
 52 single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the
 53 same individual that may include both counseling and discipline, and
 54 (10) include strategies to address and assist students with
 55 cyberbullying. The disciplinary actions pursuant to subdivision (9) of
 56 this subsection may include suspension of the student, pursuant to
 57 section 10-233c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, or
 58 expulsion of the student, pursuant to section 10-233d of the 2008
 59 supplement to the general statutes. The notification required pursuant
 60 to subdivision (7) of this [section] subsection shall include a
 61 description of the response of school staff to such acts and any
 62 consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of
 63 bullying, including the possibility of suspension or expulsion of the
 64 student who commits any verified acts of bullying.

65 (b) For purposes of this section, (1) "bullying" means any overt acts
 66 by a student or a group of students directed against another student
 67 with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate the other
 68 student while on school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or on a
 69 school bus, which acts are repeated against the same student over
 70 time; [Such policies may include provisions addressing bullying
 71 outside of the school setting if it has a direct and negative impact on a
 72 student's academic performance or safety in school] and (2)
 73 "cyberbullying" means bullying using the Internet, interactive and
 74 digital technologies, or cellular mobile telephones.

75 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of one million dollars is
 76 appropriated to the Department of Education, from the General Fund,
 77 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the purpose of funding
 78 grants pursuant to section 10-263e of the general statutes.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | July 1, 2008 | New section |

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| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2008</i> | 10-222d |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2008</i> | New section |

KID

Joint Favorable C/R

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