



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 5141

HB0556405141HDO

Offered by:

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.

REP. ACKERT, 8th Dist.

SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5564

File No. 706

Cal. No. 265

"AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SAFETY."

1 Strike section 1 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
2 and internal references accordingly

3 Strike sections 3 to 5, inclusive, in their entirety and insert the
4 following in lieu thereof:

5 "Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is
6 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
7 *passage*):

8 (c) Not later than [January 1, 2012] September 1, 2014, each local and
9 regional board of education that has not had a safe school climate plan,
10 developed pursuant to this section, previously reviewed and approved
11 by the Department of Education shall [approve the] submit a safe
12 school climate plan [developed pursuant to this section and submit

13 such plan to the Department of Education] to the department for
14 review and approval in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of
15 this act. Not later than thirty calendar days after approval by the
16 department of such safe school climate plan, [by the local or regional
17 board of education,] the board shall make such plan available on the
18 board's and each individual school in the school district's Internet web
19 site and ensure that such plan is included in the school district's
20 publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for
21 schools and in all student handbooks.

22 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of
23 Education shall receive each safe school climate plan submitted
24 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-222d of the general statutes, as
25 amended by this act, and review each such plan for compliance with
26 the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-222d of the general
27 statutes. Not later than thirty calendar days after receiving such plan,
28 the department shall approve or reject such plan. If the department
29 rejects a safe school climate plan, the department shall provide notice
30 of such rejection and the reasons for such rejection to the local or
31 regional board of education that submitted such plan. Such local or
32 regional board of education shall redevelop and resubmit a safe school
33 climate plan to the department for approval not later than thirty
34 calendar days after receipt of notice of such rejection. Not later than
35 thirty calendar days after receiving such resubmitted plan, the
36 department shall approve or reject such plan. If the department rejects
37 a resubmitted safe school climate plan, the department shall provide
38 notice of such rejection to the local or regional board of education that
39 resubmitted such plan. Not later than thirty calendar days after
40 receiving notice of such rejection and the reasons for such rejection,
41 such local or regional board of education shall adopt an appropriate
42 model safe school climate plan, developed or recommended by the
43 department pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-
44 222h of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

45 (b) The Department of Education shall make available on the
46 department's Internet web site (1) each safe school climate plan that

47 has been approved by the department, (2) a list of the school districts
48 that have an approved safe school climate plan, and (3) a list of the
49 school districts whose safe school climate plan has been rejected and is
50 in the process of resubmitting its safe school climate plan for approval
51 by the department.

52 Sec. 5. Section 10-222h of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
53 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
54 *from passage*):

55 (a) The Department of Education shall, within available
56 appropriations, (1) document school districts' articulated needs for
57 technical assistance and training related to safe learning and bullying,
58 (2) collect information on the prevention and intervention strategies
59 used by schools to reduce the incidence of bullying, improve school
60 climate and improve reporting outcomes, (3) develop or recommend
61 [a] model safe school climate [plan] plans for grades kindergarten to
62 twelve, inclusive, and (4) in collaboration with the Connecticut
63 Association of Schools, disseminate to all public schools grade-level
64 appropriate school climate assessment instruments₂ approved by the
65 department, [including surveys,] to be used by local and regional
66 boards of education for the purposes of collecting information
67 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection so that the department
68 can monitor bullying prevention efforts over time and compare each
69 district's progress to state trends. Such school climate assessment
70 instruments shall (A) include surveys that contain uniform grade-level
71 appropriate questions that collect information about students'
72 perspectives and opinions about the school climate at the school, and
73 (B) allow students to complete and submit such assessment and survey
74 anonymously.

75 (b) On or before February 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
76 department shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
77 submit a report on the status of its efforts pursuant to this section
78 including, but not limited to, the number of verified acts of bullying in
79 the state, an analysis of the responsive action taken by school districts₂

80 an analysis of student responses on the uniform grade-level
81 appropriate questions described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision
82 (4) of subsection (a) of this section and any recommendations it may
83 have regarding additional activities or funding to prevent bullying in
84 schools and improve school climate to the joint standing committees of
85 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
86 education and children and to the speaker of the House of
87 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate and the
88 majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives and the
89 Senate.

90 (c) The department may accept private donations for the purposes
91 of this section."