



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 5157

SB0010605157SD0

Offered by:

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.
SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 106

File No. 315

Cal. No. 231

"AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENSURING SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Commissioner of
4 Social Services and the Labor Commissioner shall permit a recipient of
5 temporary family assistance to take education courses as part of the
6 requirements of the recipient's employability plan, established
7 pursuant to section 17b-689c of the general statutes, provided: (1) The
8 state complies with federal work participation requirements for the
9 employment services program established pursuant to section 17b-
10 688c of the general statutes, and (2) the education courses are
11 approved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

12 (b) To the extent permissible under federal law, the Labor
13 Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
14 Services, may approve education courses as required employment
15 activities for a recipient of temporary family assistance. Education
16 courses that may be approved include, but are not limited to: (1) Two-
17 year or four-year college degree programs, and (2) high school
18 graduate equivalency degree or basic education programs for
19 recipients otherwise ineligible to enroll in such programs during their
20 first twenty weekly hours of required employment activities.

21 (c) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner
22 of Social Services, shall implement policies and procedures to establish
23 (1) which programs may qualify as an approved employment activity,
24 and (2) enrollment and academic requirements for students who are
25 recipients of temporary family assistance. The Labor Commissioner
26 shall implement such policies and procedures while in the process of
27 adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided
28 the Labor Commissioner provides notice of intent to adopt the
29 regulations in accordance with section 4-168 of the general statutes not
30 later than twenty days after implementing such policies and
31 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
32 subsection shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

33 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the state
34 to pay for the tuition of any recipient of temporary family assistance.

35 Sec. 2. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

37 (a) As used in this section, sections 10-222g to 10-222i, inclusive, as
38 amended by this act, and section 10-222k:

39 (1) "Bullying" means (A) the repeated use by one or more students
40 of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying,
41 directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same
42 school district, or (B) a physical act or gesture by one or more students
43 repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same

44 school district, that: (i) Causes physical or emotional harm to such
45 student or damage to such student's property, (ii) places such student
46 in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or
47 her property, (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for such
48 student, (iv) infringes on the rights of such student at school, or (v)
49 substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of
50 a school. "Bullying" shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral
51 or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any
52 actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color,
53 religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender
54 identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical
55 appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability,
56 or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived
57 to have one or more of such characteristics;

58 (2) "Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the
59 Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone
60 or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications;

61 (3) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other
62 portable electronic equipment capable of providing data
63 communication between two or more individuals, including, but not
64 limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital
65 assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a
66 video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital
67 images are taken or transmitted;

68 (4) "Electronic communication" means any transfer of signs, signals,
69 writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted
70 in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic
71 or photo-optical system;

72 (5) "Hostile environment" means a situation in which bullying
73 among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the
74 conditions of the school climate;

75 (6) "Outside of the school setting" means at a location, activity or

76 program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic
77 device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used
78 by a local or regional board of education;

79 (7) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher,
80 school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor,
81 psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional
82 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or
83 working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any
84 other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has
85 regular contact with students and who provides services to or on
86 behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high
87 school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of
88 education; and

89 (8) "School climate" means the quality and character of school life
90 with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the
91 school community between and among students and adults.

92 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
93 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of
94 bullying in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable students to
95 anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees and require
96 students and the parents or guardians of students to be notified
97 [annually] at the beginning of each school year of the process by which
98 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of
99 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school
100 employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying
101 to orally notify the safe school climate specialist, described in section
102 10-222k, or another school administrator if the safe school climate
103 specialist is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school
104 employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a
105 written report not later than two school days after making such oral
106 report, (4) require the safe school climate specialist to investigate or
107 supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that
108 such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written

109 reports made under this section and that the parents or guardians of
110 the student alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and
111 the parents or guardians of the student against whom such alleged act
112 or acts were directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has
113 commenced, (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any
114 anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken
115 solely on the basis of an anonymous report, (6) include a prevention
116 and intervention strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, as amended
117 by this act, for school employees to deal with bullying, (7) provide for
118 the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning
119 bullying, (8) require each school to notify the parents or guardians of
120 students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or
121 guardians of students against whom such acts were directed not later
122 than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation
123 described in subdivision (4) of this subsection, (9) require each school
124 to invite the parents or guardians of a student [who commits any
125 verified act of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student]
126 against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to
127 such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to
128 ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed
129 and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of
130 bullying, (10) require each school to invite the parents or guardians of
131 a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting,
132 separate and distinct from the meeting required in subdivision (9) of
133 this subsection, to discuss specific interventions undertaken by the
134 school to prevent further acts of bullying, (11) establish a procedure for
135 each school to document and maintain records relating to reports and
136 investigations of bullying in such school and to maintain a list of the
137 number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list
138 available for public inspection, and annually report such number to the
139 Department of Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the
140 Commissioner of Education, [(11)] (12) direct the development of case-
141 by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying
142 against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying
143 incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and

144 discipline, [(12)] (13) prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an
145 individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of
146 bullying, [(13)] (14) direct the development of student safety support
147 plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that
148 address safety measures the school will take to protect such students
149 against further acts of bullying, [(14)] (15) require the principal of a
150 school, or the principal's designee, to notify the appropriate local law
151 enforcement agency when such principal, or the principal's designee,
152 believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct, [(15)]
153 (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or
154 school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school
155 grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned,
156 leased or used by a local or regional board of education, or through the
157 use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned,
158 leased or used by the local or regional board of education, and (B)
159 outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile
160 environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was
161 directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom
162 such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the
163 education process or the orderly operation of a school, [(16)] (17)
164 require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all
165 school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school
166 district's safe school climate plan, and [(17)] (18) require that all school
167 employees annually complete the training described in section 10-220a
168 or section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)
169 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision
170 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of
171 school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result
172 from the commission of further acts of bullying.

173 (c) Not later than January 1, 2012, each local and regional board of
174 education shall approve the safe school climate plan developed
175 pursuant to this section and submit such plan to the Department of
176 Education. Not later than thirty calendar days after approval of such
177 plan by the local or regional board of education, the board shall make

178 such plan available on the board's and each individual school in the
179 school district's Internet web site and ensure that such plan is included
180 in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and
181 standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

182 (d) On and after July 1, 2012, and biennially thereafter, each local
183 and regional board of education shall require each school in the district
184 to complete an assessment using the school climate assessment
185 instruments, including surveys, approved and disseminated by the
186 Department of Education pursuant to section 10-222h. Each local and
187 regional board of education shall collect the school climate assessments
188 for each school in the district and submit such school climate
189 assessments to the department.

190 Sec. 3. Section 10-222g of the general statutes is repealed and the
191 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

192 For the purposes of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, the
193 term "prevention and intervention strategy" may include, but is not
194 limited to, (1) implementation of a positive behavioral interventions
195 and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for
196 safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying identified by the
197 Department of Education, (2) school rules prohibiting bullying,
198 harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate
199 consequences for those who engage in such acts, (3) adequate adult
200 supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other
201 specific areas where bullying is likely to occur, (4) inclusion of grade-
202 appropriate bullying education and prevention curricula in
203 kindergarten through high school, (5) individual interventions with
204 the bully, parents and school employees, and interventions with the
205 bullied child, parents and school employees, (6) school-wide training
206 related to safe school climate, (7) student peer training, education and
207 support, [and] (8) promotion of parent involvement in bullying
208 prevention through individual or team participation in meetings,
209 trainings and individual interventions, and (9) culturally competent
210 school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning, self-

211 awareness and self-regulation. Funding for the school-based bullying
 212 intervention and school climate improvement strategy may originate
 213 from public, private, federal or philanthropic sources. For purposes of
 214 this section, "interventions with the bullied child" includes referrals to
 215 a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or mental
 216 health service, and periodic follow-up by the safe school climate
 217 specialist with the bullied child.

218 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Office of Early Childhood,
 219 in collaboration with the State Department of Education, may offer
 220 from funds which may originate from public, private, federal or
 221 philanthropic sources, a competitive grant for up to three alliance
 222 school districts to develop and implement a strategy to promote the
 223 social and emotional well-being and health of preschool children from
 224 age three to children in third grade, with a focus on instructional tools
 225 and family engagement. Up to five per cent of the grant funds
 226 provided under this section for any fiscal year may be used to pay for
 227 administrative costs."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-222d
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-222g
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section