
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5352

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY GOVERNING THE WITHHOLDING OF RECESS AS A FORM OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits school employees from preventing students enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade from participating in recess as a form of discipline.

Each school year, starting with the 2022-23 school year, the bill requires each local and regional board of education to adopt a policy it deems appropriate concerning the circumstances when, as a form of discipline, a school employee may prevent or otherwise restrict a student from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise (i.e., recess) in the regular school day.

Under the bill, the policy must allow school employees to prevent or restrict recess when:

1. a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other students or school personnel or
2. it is limited to the shorter recess period if there are two or more recess periods in the school day, so long as the student is allowed to participate in at least 20 minutes of physical activity during the school day.

The policy may allow recess prevention or restriction only once during a school week, unless the student is a danger to the health or safety of other students or school personnel.

Additionally, the policy must not (1) include provisions that are unreasonably restrictive or punitive or (2) allow recess prevention or restriction if a student does not complete their work on time or for the

student's academic performance.

Under the bill, the recess policy must also distinguish between discipline that:

1. is imposed before recess begins and discipline imposed during recess and
2. (a) prevents or otherwise restricts a student from participating in recess prior to recess and (b) uses methods to redirect a student's behavior during recess.

The bill also deletes obsolete language that required the local and regional boards of education to develop a recess policy by October 1, 2019.

It also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 3 (03/15/2022)