



Sen. Christopher Belt

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 4056

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 4056 on page 4,
3 line 21, after "22-81,", by inserting "27-23.7,"; and

4 on page 171, immediately below line 1, by inserting the
5 following:

6 "(105 ILCS 5/27-23.7)

7 Sec. 27-23.7. Bullying prevention.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that a safe and civil
9 school environment is necessary for students to learn and
10 achieve and that bullying causes physical, psychological, and
11 emotional harm to students and interferes with students'
12 ability to learn and participate in school activities. The
13 General Assembly further finds that bullying has been linked
14 to other forms of antisocial behavior, such as vandalism,
15 shoplifting, skipping and dropping out of school, fighting,
16 using drugs and alcohol, sexual harassment, and sexual

1 violence. Because of the negative outcomes associated with
2 bullying in schools, the General Assembly finds that school
3 districts, charter schools, and non-public, non-sectarian
4 elementary and secondary schools should educate students,
5 parents, and school district, charter school, or non-public,
6 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school personnel about
7 what behaviors constitute prohibited bullying.

8 Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color,
9 religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status,
10 physical or mental disability, military status, sexual
11 orientation, gender-related identity or expression,
12 unfavorable discharge from military service, association with
13 a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual
14 or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing
15 characteristic is prohibited in all school districts, charter
16 schools, and non-public, non-sectarian elementary and
17 secondary schools. No student shall be subjected to bullying:

18 (1) during any school-sponsored education program or
19 activity;

20 (2) while in school, on school property, on school
21 buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus
22 stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored
23 or school-sanctioned events or activities;

24 (3) through the transmission of information from a
25 school computer, a school computer network, or other
26 similar electronic school equipment; or

1 (4) through the transmission of information from a
2 computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location,
3 activity, function, or program or from the use of
4 technology or an electronic device that is not owned,
5 leased, or used by a school district or school if the
6 bullying causes a substantial disruption to the
7 educational process or orderly operation of a school. This
8 item (4) applies only in cases in which a school
9 administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying
10 through this means has occurred and does not require a
11 district or school to staff or monitor any
12 nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

13 (a-5) Nothing in this Section is intended to infringe upon
14 any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of
15 religion or religiously based views protected under the First
16 Amendment to the United States Constitution or under Section 3
17 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.

18 (b) In this Section:

19 "Bullying" includes "cyber-bullying" and means any severe
20 or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including
21 communications made in writing or electronically, directed
22 toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably
23 predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

24 (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear
25 of harm to the student's or students' person or property;

26 (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the

1 student's or students' physical or mental health;

2 (3) substantially interfering with the student's or
3 students' academic performance; or

4 (4) substantially interfering with the student's or
5 students' ability to participate in or benefit from the
6 services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

7 Bullying, as defined in this subsection (b), may take
8 various forms, including without limitation one or more of the
9 following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking,
10 physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft,
11 public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation
12 for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is
13 meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

14 "Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of
15 technology or any electronic communication, including without
16 limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images,
17 sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in
18 whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system,
19 photoelectronic system, or photooptical system, including
20 without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications,
21 instant messages, or facsimile communications.

22 "Cyber-bullying" includes the creation of a webpage or weblog
23 in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or
24 the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of
25 posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation
26 creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of

1 bullying in this Section. "Cyber-bullying" also includes the
2 distribution by electronic means of a communication to more
3 than one person or the posting of material on an electronic
4 medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the
5 distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated
6 in the definition of bullying in this Section.

7 "Policy on bullying" means a bullying prevention policy
8 that meets the following criteria:

9 (1) Includes the bullying definition provided in this
10 Section.

11 (2) Includes a statement that bullying is contrary to
12 State law and the policy of the school district, charter
13 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or
14 secondary school and is consistent with subsection (a-5)
15 of this Section.

16 (3) Includes procedures for promptly reporting
17 bullying, including, but not limited to, identifying and
18 providing the school e-mail address (if applicable) and
19 school telephone number for the staff person or persons
20 responsible for receiving such reports and a procedure for
21 anonymous reporting; however, this shall not be construed
22 to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis
23 of an anonymous report.

24 (4) Consistent with federal and State laws and rules
25 governing student privacy rights, includes procedures for
26 promptly informing parents or guardians of all students

1 involved in the alleged incident of bullying and
2 discussing, as appropriate, the availability of social
3 work services, counseling, school psychological services,
4 other interventions, and restorative measures.

5 (5) Contains procedures for promptly investigating and
6 addressing reports of bullying, including the following:

7 (A) Making all reasonable efforts to complete the
8 investigation within 10 school days after the date the
9 report of the incident of bullying was received and
10 taking into consideration additional relevant
11 information received during the course of the
12 investigation about the reported incident of bullying.

13 (B) Involving appropriate school support personnel
14 and other staff persons with knowledge, experience,
15 and training on bullying prevention, as deemed
16 appropriate, in the investigation process.

17 (C) Notifying the principal or school
18 administrator or his or her designee of the report of
19 the incident of bullying as soon as possible after the
20 report is received.

21 (D) Consistent with federal and State laws and
22 rules governing student privacy rights, providing
23 parents and guardians of the students who are parties
24 to the investigation information about the
25 investigation and an opportunity to meet with the
26 principal or school administrator or his or her

1 designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of
2 the investigation, and the actions taken to address
3 the reported incident of bullying.

4 (6) Includes the interventions that can be taken to
5 address bullying, which may include, but are not limited
6 to, school social work services, restorative measures,
7 social-emotional skill building, counseling, school
8 psychological services, and community-based services.

9 (7) Includes a statement prohibiting reprisal or
10 retaliation against any person who reports an act of
11 bullying and the consequences and appropriate remedial
12 actions for a person who engages in reprisal or
13 retaliation.

14 (8) Includes consequences and appropriate remedial
15 actions for a person found to have falsely accused another
16 of bullying as a means of retaliation or as a means of
17 bullying.

18 (9) Is based on the engagement of a range of school
19 stakeholders, including students and parents or guardians.

20 (10) Is posted on the school district's, charter
21 school's, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or
22 secondary school's existing Internet website, is included
23 in the student handbook, and, where applicable, posted
24 where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are
25 currently posted in the school and provided periodically
26 throughout the school year to students and faculty, and is

1 distributed annually to parents, guardians, students, and
2 school personnel, including new employees when hired.

3 (11) As part of the process of reviewing and
4 re-evaluating the policy under subsection (d) of this
5 Section, contains a policy evaluation process to assess
6 the outcomes and effectiveness of the policy that
7 includes, but is not limited to, factors such as the
8 frequency of victimization; student, staff, and family
9 observations of safety at a school; identification of
10 areas of a school where bullying occurs; the types of
11 bullying utilized; and bystander intervention or
12 participation. The school district, charter school, or
13 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school
14 may use relevant data and information it already collects
15 for other purposes in the policy evaluation. The
16 information developed as a result of the policy evaluation
17 must be made available on the Internet website of the
18 school district, charter school, or non-public,
19 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school. If an
20 Internet website is not available, the information must be
21 provided to school administrators, school board members,
22 school personnel, parents, guardians, and students.

23 (12) Is consistent with the policies of the school
24 board, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian
25 elementary or secondary school.

26 "Restorative measures" means a continuum of school-based

1 alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions
2 and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs
3 of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining
4 school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and
5 productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal
6 and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in
7 school and society, (v) serve to build and restore
8 relationships among students, families, schools, and
9 communities, (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption
10 by balancing accountability with an understanding of students'
11 behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school,
12 and (vii) increase student accountability if the incident of
13 bullying is based on religion, race, ethnicity, or any other
14 category that is identified in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

15 "School personnel" means persons employed by, on contract
16 with, or who volunteer in a school district, charter school,
17 or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school,
18 including without limitation school and school district
19 administrators, teachers, school social workers, school
20 counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria
21 workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers,
22 and security guards.

23 (c) (Blank).

24 (d) Each school district, charter school, and non-public,
25 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school shall create,
26 maintain, and implement a policy on bullying, which policy

1 must be filed with the State Board of Education. The policy or
2 implementing procedure shall include a process to investigate
3 whether a reported act of bullying is within the permissible
4 scope of the district's or school's jurisdiction and shall
5 require that the district or school provide the victim with
6 information regarding services that are available within the
7 district and community, such as counseling, support services,
8 and other programs. School personnel available for help with a
9 bully or to make a report about bullying shall be made known to
10 parents or legal guardians, students, and school personnel.
11 Every 2 years, each school district, charter school, and
12 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school shall
13 conduct a review and re-evaluation of its policy and make any
14 necessary and appropriate revisions. No later than September
15 30 of the subject year, the ~~The~~ policy must be filed with the
16 State Board of Education after being updated. The State Board
17 of Education shall monitor and provide technical support for
18 the implementation of policies created under this subsection
19 (d). In monitoring the implementation of the policies, the
20 State Board of Education shall review each filed policy on
21 bullying to ensure all policies meet the requirements set
22 forth in this Section, including ensuring that each policy
23 meets the 12 criterion identified within the definition of
24 "policy on bullying" set forth in this Section.

25 If a school district, charter school, or non-public,
26 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school fails to file a

1 policy on bullying by September 30 of the subject year, the
2 State Board of Education shall provide a written request for
3 filing to the school district, charter school, or non-public,
4 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school. If a school
5 district, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian
6 elementary or secondary school fails to file a policy on
7 bullying within 14 days of receipt of the aforementioned
8 written request, the State Board of Education shall publish
9 notice of the non-compliance on the State Board of Education's
10 website.

11 (e) This Section shall not be interpreted to prevent a
12 victim from seeking redress under any other available civil or
13 criminal law.

14 (Source: P.A. 102-197, eff. 7-30-21; 102-241, eff. 8-3-21;
15 revised 10-18-21.)".