

HB 843 -- Bullying in Schools

Sponsor: Lampe

This bill defines "bullying" and prohibits school employees, volunteers, or students from bullying a student while on school property, at school functions, or on a school bus. School employees or volunteers who witness an incident must report it and are exempt from civil liability. By August 1, 2006, each school district must develop its policy on bullying, with components specified in the bill. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will develop model policies by April 1, 2006. The bill provides how the policies will be published and incorporated into district training. Schools must advise anyone filing a bullying complaint that other options exist to remedy the situation, such as injunctions and restraining orders.