

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1943, Page 16, Section 160.518, Line 85,
2 by inserting after all of said section and line the following:

3
4 "160.775. 1. Every district shall adopt an antibullying policy by September 1, 2007.

5 2. "Bullying" means intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable student to fear for
6 his or her physical safety or property; substantially interferes with the educational performance,
7 opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially disrupts the orderly
8 operation of the school. Bullying may consist of, but is not limited to, physical actions, including
9 gestures, or oral, cyberbullying, electronic, or written communication, and any threat of retaliation
10 for reporting of such acts. Bullying by students is prohibited on school property, at any school
11 function, or on a school bus. "Cyberbullying" means bullying as defined in this subsection through
12 the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image
13 by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or
14 other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

15 3. Each district's antibullying policy shall be founded on the assumption that all students
16 need a safe learning environment. Policies shall treat all students equally and shall not contain
17 specific lists of protected classes of students who are to receive special treatment. Policies may
18 include age-appropriate differences for schools based on the grade levels at the school. Each such
19 policy shall contain a statement of the consequences of bullying.

20 4. Each district's antibullying policy shall be included in the student handbook and shall
21 require, at a minimum, the following components:

22 (1) A statement prohibiting bullying, defined no less inclusively than in subsection 2 of this
23 section;

24 (2) A statement requiring district employees to report any instance of bullying of which the
25 employee has firsthand knowledge[. The district policy shall address training of employees in the
26 requirements of the district policy.], has reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been subject
27 to bullying, or has received a report of bullying from a student. The policy shall require a district
28 employee who witnesses an incident of bullying or has received reliable information that an incident
29 of bullying has occurred to report the incident to the district's designated individual at the school
30 within two days of the employee witnessing or receiving the reliable information regarding the
31 incident. The policy shall require that the district maintain records of all incidents of bullying and
32 their resolution;

33 (3) A procedure for reporting an act of bullying. The policy shall also include a statement
34 requiring that the district designate an individual at each school in the district to receive reports of
35 incidents of bullying. Such individual shall be a district employee who is a school principal, school
36 administrator, or school supervisor;

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1 (4) A procedure for prompt investigation of reports of violations and complaints,
 2 identifying one or more employees responsible for the investigation including, at a minimum, the
 3 following requirements:

4 (a) Within one school day of a report of an incident of bullying being received, the school
 5 principal, or his or her designee, shall initiate an investigation of the incident;

6 (b) The school principal may appoint other school staff to assist with the investigation; and

7 (c) The investigation shall be completed within ten school days from the date of the written
 8 report;

9 (5) The range of ways in which a school will respond once an incident of bullying is
 10 confirmed with disciplinary action ranging from a minimum of counseling for the student to a
 11 maximum of expulsion of the student based on the establishment of reasonable criteria related to the
 12 severity of the actions;

13 (6) A statement that prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of
 14 bullying and the consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal
 15 or retaliation;

16 (7) A statement of how the policy is to be publicized; and

17 (8) A process for discussing the district's antibullying policy with students and training
 18 school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in the requirements of
 19 the policy, including, at a minimum, the following statements:

20 (a) The school district shall provide information and appropriate training to the school
 21 district staff who have significant contact with students regarding the policy;

22 (b) The school district shall give annual notice of the policy to students, parents or
 23 guardians, and staff;

24 (c) The school district shall provide education and information to students regarding
 25 bullying, including information regarding the school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful
 26 effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying, including student peer-to-
 27 peer initiatives to provide accountability and policy enforcement for those found to have engaged in
 28 bullying, reprisal, or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying;

29 (d) The administration of the school district shall instruct its school counselors and school
 30 psychologists to educate students who are victims of bullying on techniques for students to
 31 overcome bullying's negative effects. Such techniques shall include, but not be limited to,
 32 cultivating the student's self-worth and self-esteem; teaching the student to defend himself or herself
 33 assertively and effectively; helping the student develop social skills; and encouraging the student to
 34 develop an internal locus of control. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to
 35 contradict or limit any other provision of this section; and

36 (e) The administration of the school district shall implement programs and other initiatives
 37 to prevent bullying, to respond to such conduct in a manner that does not stigmatize the victim, and
 38 to make resources or referrals available to victims of bullying.

39 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any school district may
 40 subject any student to discipline for cyberbullying. A school district may discipline any student for
 41 cyberbullying to the greatest extent allowed by law. The district shall have jurisdiction to prohibit
 42 cyberbullying that originates on a school's campus or at a district activity if the electronic
 43 communication was made using the school's technological resources, if there is a sufficient nexus to
 44 the educational environment, or if the electronic communication was made on the school's campus
 45 or at a district activity using the student's own personal technological resources. The district shall
 46 have jurisdiction to prohibit cyberbullying that originates off the school's campus if:

47 (1) It was reasonably foreseeable that the electronic communication would reach the
 48 school's campus; or

(2) There is a sufficient nexus between the electronic communication and the school that includes, but is not limited to, speech that is directed at a school-specific audience, or the speech was brought onto or accessed on the school campus, even if it was not the student in question who did so. The district may also prohibit cyberbullying that occurs outside of the district to the greatest extent allowed by law including, but not limited to, situations in which the cyberbullying negatively impacts the educational environment or constitutes a true threat. Even in situations where the district does not have legal authority to discipline a student, the district may contact law enforcement and take other appropriate actions to protect students and clarify district expectations.

6. Each district shall annually review its antibullying policy and revise it as needed. The district's school board shall receive input from school personnel, students, and administrators when reviewing and revising the policy.

7. Each district shall develop a method to keep track of any correspondence between individuals and the district or any school in the district regarding an incident of bullying. Such correspondence shall be a closed record under chapter 610.

8. Each district shall annually report to the department of elementary and secondary education the number of confirmed reported bullying incidents in the district at the school level and the district level and any action taken in response to an incident of bullying including, but not limited to, expulsions and suspensions for each school in the district. No district shall release any confidential information not authorized by state or federal law for public release. The department of elementary and secondary education shall post this information on its internet website within thirty days of receiving it but shall ensure that no personally identifiable information is posted."; and

Further amend said bill, Page 25, Section 167.228, Line 3, by inserting after all of said section and line the following:

"170.047. 1. Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, any licensed educator may annually complete up to two hours of training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of the professional development hours required for state board of education certification.

2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop guidelines suitable for training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department shall develop materials that may be used for such training or professional development.

3. For purposes of this section, the term "licensed educator" means any teacher with a certificate of license to teach issued by the state board of education or any other educator or administrator required to maintain a professional license issued by the state board of education.

4. The department of elementary and secondary education may promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section.

5. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

170.048. 1. By July 1, 2018, each district shall adopt a policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention, including the training and education of district employees.

2. Each district's policy shall address, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) Strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide;

1 (2) Strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of suicide; and

2 (3) Protocols for responding to a suicide death.

3 3. By July 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a
4 model policy that districts may adopt. When developing the model policy, the department shall
5 cooperate, consult with, and seek input from organizations that have expertise in youth suicide
6 awareness and prevention. By July 1, 2021, and at least every three years thereafter, the department
7 shall request information and seek feedback from districts on their experience with the policy for
8 youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department shall review this information and may use
9 it to adapt the department's model policy. The department shall post any information on its website
10 that it has received from districts that it deems relevant. The department shall not post any
11 confidential information or any information that personally identifies any student or school
12 employee."; and

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14 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
15 accordingly.