

HB 1123 -- SCHOOL SAFETY

SPONSOR: Houx

This bill modifies current language regarding school discipline and safety to include charter schools. The bill also allows for a website posting to serve as sufficient notice in lieu of a written copy.

School districts and charter schools may enter into written agreements with law enforcement agencies as to the procedure for reporting criminal offenses.

The bill requires sexual misconduct reports to additionally be reported to the superintendent or charter school administrator, or their designee.

Responsibility is given to the Children's Division to determine if reported spanking or force followed school policy and was appropriate (Section 160.261, RSMo).

This bill requires schools to designate an employee to serve as the safety coordinator who will be reported to the Department of Public Safety. The duties of the school safety coordinator are specified in the bill (Section 160.660).

The bill requires school administrators to attend training, at least every four years, on improper sexual relationships in the school environment (Section 162.069).

This bill allows the Commissioner of Education to assign a student to another district or charter school due to an extreme hardship (Section 167.121).

Juvenile officers and employees of the Children's Division are required to notify the school or charter school when a charge or indictment has been filed against a student; this notice must be given within two days of enrollment. This notice may be used to provide the student educational services in an alternative environment (Section 167.122).

The bill expands the ability of school boards or governing boards of any charter school from mere suspension to include expulsion of students with felony charges (Section 167.161).

This bill removes student protections to free expression for symbolic emblems, insignias, and clothing that does not promote disruptive behavior (Section 167.166).

The bill requires that students suspended for more than 10 consecutive school days for an act of school violence cannot be enrolled or readmitted until a conference is held. The bill prohibits students from being admitted if found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled nolo contendere to any act, or an attempt to commit any act as specified in the bill (Section 167.171).

This bill modifies the definition of "medication" to include additional chronic health conditions and allows schools to revoke authorization for students to use medication under certain situations as specified in the bill (Section 167.627).

The bill allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to provide employing school districts criminal background check results at any time before the expiration of one year after the initial professional license application (Section 168.133).

This bill requires schools to train for active shooter scenarios, and responses to threatening situations. Drills with law enforcement shall occur at least every three years (Section 170.315).

The bill modifies when policies to govern school districts or charter schools take effect (Section 171.011).

This bill allocates money collected under RSMo. Chapter 271 to be designated for the benefit of school safety programs (Section 271.370).

The bill defines "stun gun" and modifies the offense of unlawful use of weapons to exclude those possessed by an adult or student for the purpose of facilitating or participating in a school-sanctioned firearm-related event or club event as long as the adult or student is authorized by the school to do so and follows school policy (Sections 571.010 and 571.030).

This bill is similar to HB 706 (2019).