

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1521

By: Lindley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-100, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 2002 and as renumbered by Section 5, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 24-100.5), which relates to Safe School Committees; requiring school districts to submit Safe School Committee reports to the State Department of Education; stating content of reports; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-100, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 2002 and as renumbered by Section 5, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 24-100.5), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-100.5 A. Due to the growing concern regarding safety and the ever constant threat of violence in the public schools, it is the intent of the Legislature that public schools and families work together to combat this rising problem. Therefore, beginning October 1, 1996, and every year thereafter, each public school site shall establish a Safe School Committee to be composed of at least six (6) members. The Safe School Committee shall be composed of an equal number of teachers, parents of the children affected and students.

B. The Safe School Committee shall study and make recommendations to the principal regarding:

1. Unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school

violence, and other issues which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school;

2. Student harassment, intimidation, and bullying at school;

3. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and

4. Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams that include counselors and/or school psychologists.

In its considerations, the Safe School Committee shall review traditional and accepted harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, or school districts.

C. The State Department of Education shall compile and distribute to each public school site a list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students at school. If a school district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education.

D. The provisions of this section shall not apply to technology center schools.

E. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, every school district shall submit a report to the State Department of Education by August 1 of each year summarizing the activities of each Safe School Committee in the district. The report shall include, but shall not be limited to, information on the frequency of meetings of the Safe School Committees and the content of recommendations the Committees have made regarding the prevention of school violence.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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