

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 54th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1661
Version:	Sen.Amend.
Request Number:	N/A
Author:	Rep. Denney et al./Sen. Halligan
Date:	5/14/2013
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

House Bill 1661 as modified by Senate amendment defines bullying as any pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group of students or about a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results for the targeted individual or group and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. It also expands the definition of electronic communication to include video content. School district's discipline policies must contain a procedure for reporting an act of bullying to a school official including a provision of reporting anonymously. No formal disciplinary action will be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report. The policy must contain a requirement that any school employee who has reliable information of suspected bullying must report it immediately and how a statement of how the policy is to be publicized. Those investigating must make a determination of whether the conduct is actually occurring. Parents must be notified and the job title of the school official responsible for enforcing the policy must be identified in the policy. The policy also must have a procedure for reporting to law enforcement acts that may constitute criminal activity or endanger school safety, require annual training and provide for educational programs for students and parents. The policy must provide for consequences, remedial action and counseling.

The State Department of Education also must maintain a central repository for collection of information regarding documented and verified incidents of bullying and publish a report annually. The State Department of Education must develop a model policy and deliver training materials to all school districts.

Prepared By: Dawn Marks

Fiscal Analysis

ESA to EHB 1661 relates to the School Bullying Prevention Act and changes the name to the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act. The measure provides for modifications of definitions, policies, procedures, committees and requirements for the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education. The measure has no fiscal impact for the State Department of Education but may have some potential costs to local school districts.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney

Other Considerations

None at this time.

