

**Bill Summary**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 1133</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>CS</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>3863</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Sen. Sharp</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>02/21/2020</b>

**Committee Substitute (CS)**

The CS for SB 1133 amends the term “bullying” within the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act to include such behavior that occurs on or off school premises. The measure creates the term “in distress” and defines it as a student shows signs including but not limited to changes in behavior, anxiety, sleep problems, acting out and problems with academic work. The measure requires a school district board of education to update its discipline and bullying policy annually and provides immunity from a cause of action to school employees, volunteers, students, and parents/legal guardians of students who promptly report incidents of bullying in good faith and who fail to remedy the reported bullying. The measure does not extend such immunity to school officials who are designated to investigate bullying incidents.

Additionally, the measure requires an investigation into an incident of bullying to be completed within 72 hours of receiving a report and for notification to be provide to the parents/legal guardians of a reported victim and perpetrator within 24 hours of receiving a report of bullying. The bill also requires the discipline and bullying policy adopted by the school to include a requirement that a school official immediately contact the parents/legal guardians of a student who appears in distress. The bullying policy must prohibit retaliation against a school employee who notifies the district board of education or the State Department of Education of noncompliance with the discipline and bullying policy. The measure directs a district board of education to hold at least one public hearing prior to adopting or amending the bullying policy and to submit the approved policy to the State Department of Education within 30 days of adoption. The bill also requires a district superintendent to provide a report on bullying prevention activities and reported incidents of bullying to the district board of education at least annually at a public meeting. District boards of education must provide each employee with a copy of the bullying policy and an explanation of his/her responsibilities. The measure requires the State Board of Education to submit a report annually to the education committee chairs of the Legislature containing the number of documented and verified incidents of bullying.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

FY’21 Impact: Pending

Full Year Impact: Pending

This bill adds to the definition of bullying, requires a bullying policy to be updated annually by each district board of education, updates procedures for reporting bullying, requires investigations of bullying to be completed in a timely manner, requires procedure for notifying the parents or legal guardians of the reported victim and of the perpetrator in a timely manner, prohibit retaliation against certain persons. It also requires boards of education to hold public hearings on proposed bullying policy, requires an approved policy to be submitted to the State Department of Education. It requires that once each semester the superintendent of a school district shall provide to the district board of education a report on bullying prevention and incidents of bullying. Requires the State Board of Education to submit an annual report to the chairs of the education committee of both houses of the Legislature.