

HB 2937 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Amie Fender-Sosa, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that a student who experiences incident of harassment, discrimination or intimidation based on student's race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin, during school or a school sponsored activity, may bring a claim against the school district for negligently failing to prevent the incident, and against the perpetrator. Allows plaintiff, if prevailing party, to be awarded damages and reasonable attorney fees. Extends liability for damages to the parent or guardian of the minor defendant, not to exceed \$7,500.

Once a school district has confirmed an incident of such harassment, discrimination or intimidation, requires the school district notify the student's parents of their right to request the student be transferred to another school in the district. Requires school district to grant a request for transfer and to provide transportation for the student to the other school.

Requires a school district that has received a report of an incident of such harassment, discrimination or intimidation to report the incident to the Department of Justice hate crimes hotline and, if applicable, the Department of State Police tip line.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND: