

HB 2631 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Wagner, Sen. Robinson

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/19/21
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek, Robinson, Thomsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 5/17, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school district to adopt policies that require school officials to notify parents or guardians of students who were subject to acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying and the parents or guardians of students who may have conducted such acts. Requires notification to occur with involvement and consideration of the needs and concerns of the student victim. Establishes notification requirements and exception when school official reasonably believes notification could endanger student. Establishes requirements for exception to be invoked and requirement that student be notified that federal law may require parents to have access to education records. Requires notification be provided within a reasonable period of time or promptly, for acts that caused physical harm. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of bullying and harassment among students
- Strategies for preventing suicide
- Current requirements to notify law enforcement and school officials
- Ability for school officials to monitor incidents of cyberbullying

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current law requires school districts to adopt policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying. Such policies apply to behavior at school-sponsored activities, on school-provided transportation and at official school bus stops in addition to school campuses. School employees are required to report acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying to school officials identified in a school district's policy. Policies must also contain procedures for investigating reported incidents and taking remedial action.

House Bill 2631 A adds a requirement that a school district notify parents or guardians if a student is bullied or harassed under certain circumstances.