

HOUSE BILL NO. 1583

88TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN

BY HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.775, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to student safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section 4. Section 160.775, RSMo, is repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.775, 170.047, and 170.048, to read as follows:

160.775. 1. Every district shall adopt an antibullying policy by September 1, 2020.

2. "Bullying" means intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable student fear for his or her physical safety or property; substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying may consist of, but is not limited to, physical actions, including gestures, or oral, cyberbullying, electronic, or written communications, and any threat of retaliation for reporting of such acts. Bullying by students is prohibited on school property, at any school function, or on a school bus. "Cyberbullying" means bullying as defined in this subsection through the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

3. Each district's antibullying policy shall be founded on the assumption that all students need a safe learning environment. Policies shall treat all students equally and shall not contain specific lists of protected classes of students who are to receive special treatment. Policies may include age-appropriate differences for schools based on the grade levels at the school. Each such policy shall contain a statement of the consequences of bullying.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [bolded in this manner] is not enacted unless intended to be enacted from this text. **Changes to bold face type in the above bill is proposed language.**