

House Bill 1125

By: Representatives Hugley of the 113th, Hill of the 81st, Jordan of the 83rd, Dix of the 70th,
Post 2, Buckner of the 109th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to make certain changes relating to local school
3 board policies regarding bullying in student codes of conduct; to provide that local school
4 systems provide information to the Department of Education on the number and disposition
5 of bullying incidents reported; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
9 secondary education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-2-751.4, relating to policies
10 prohibiting bullying, assignment to alternative school, and notice, in its entirety and inserting
11 in lieu thereof the following:

12 "20-2-751.4.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'bullying' means:

14 (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied
15 by an apparent present ability to do so; or

16 (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or
17 expect immediate bodily harm.

18 (b) Each local board of education shall adopt policies, applicable to students in grades six
19 through 12, that prohibit bullying of a student by another student and shall require such
20 prohibition to be included in the student code of conduct for middle and high schools in
21 that school system. Local board policies shall:

22 (1) Require ~~require~~ that, upon a finding that a student has committed the offense of
23 bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall be assigned to an
24 alternative school;

25 (2) Require that each reported incident of bullying is investigated and a disposition
26 determined;

1 (3) Include procedures for handling anonymous reporting of bullying incidents, including
2 the protection of the identity of the alleged victim of a bullying incident;

3 (4) Include procedures for the reporting of an alleged bullying incident by a parent of a
4 student; and

5 (5) Include disciplinary procedures and consequences to the student for the student's or
6 parent's submission of a false report of a bullying incident.

7 Each local board of education shall ensure that students and parents of students are notified
8 of the prohibition against bullying, and the penalties for violating the prohibition, by
9 posting such information at each middle and high school and by including such information
10 in student and parent handbooks.

11 (c) Each local board of education shall include the number of bullying incidents reported
12 in its school system and the disposition of such incidents in the annual report required to
13 be submitted to the Department of Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-740.

14 (d) Any school system which is not in compliance with the requirements of this Code
15 section shall be ineligible to receive state funding pursuant to Code Sections 20-2-161 and
16 20-2-260."

17 SECTION 2.

18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.