

## SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 131:

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-751.4 of the O.C.G.A., relating to policies in public schools  
2 prohibiting bullying, so as to include acts of bullying through the use of electronic  
3 communication; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to provide for an  
4 effective date and for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

6 This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The End to Cyberbullying Act."  
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**SECTION 2.**

8 Code Section 20-2-751.4 of the O.C.G.A., relating to policies in public schools prohibiting  
9 bullying, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:  
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11 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'bullying' means an act, including an act through  
12 the use of electronic communication, ~~which occurs on school property, on school vehicles,~~  
13 ~~at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data~~  
14 ~~or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or~~  
15 ~~other electronic technology of a local school system,~~ that is:

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

18 (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or  
19 expect immediate bodily harm; or

20 (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a reasonable person would  
21 perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:

22 (A) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code  
23 Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section  
24 16-5-23.1;

25 (B) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;

26 © Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening  
27 educational environment; or

28 (D) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

29 The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated  
30 school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software  
31 that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other  
32 electronic technology of a local school system. For purposes of this Code Section,  
33 electronic communication includes but not limited to any transfer of signs, signals,  
34 writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part  
35 by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system."

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### SECTION 3.

37 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
38 without such approval. This Act shall apply to conduct on or after that date, and conduct  
39 prior to that date shall continue to be governed by prior law.

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### SECTION 4.

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