

House Bill 892

By: Representatives Moore of the 95th, Erwin of the 28th, Belton of the 112th, Dickerson of the 113th, Glanton of the 75th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-751.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 policies prohibiting bullying, so as to direct the Department of Education to revise the model
3 policy regarding bullying; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 20-2-751.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to policies
8 prohibiting bullying, is amended by revising subsection (c) as follows:

9 "(c) ~~No later than January 1, 2011, the~~ The Department of Education shall develop a model
10 policy regarding bullying, that may be revised from time to time, and shall post such policy
11 on its website in order to assist local school systems. ~~Such~~ No later than August 1, 2020,
12 such model policy shall be revised to include:

13 (1) A statement prohibiting bullying;

14 (2) A requirement that any teacher or other school employee who has reliable
15 information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target or
16 victim of bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal;

17 (3) A requirement that each school have a procedure for the school ~~administration~~
18 principal or the principal's designee to promptly investigate any report of suspected
19 bullying in a timely manner and determine in a timely manner whether bullying has
20 occurred and whether the incident must be reported to any local, state, or federal agency
21 or official, including without limitation any law enforcement agency or official;

22 (4) An age-appropriate range of consequences for students found to have committed an
23 offense of bullying ~~which that~~ shall include, at minimum and without limitation,
24 disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate under the circumstances;

25 (5) A procedure for referral to counseling for students who are found to have committed
26 an offense of bullying and students who are found to be the target or victim of a bullying
27 offense;

28 ~~(5)~~(6) A clearly defined procedure for a teacher or other school employee, student,
29 parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either
30 anonymously or in such person's name, at such person's option, to report or otherwise
31 provide information on bullying activity, with a standardized reporting form made
32 available on the local school system's website as well as in school facilities such as
33 classrooms, counselors' offices, and principals' offices;

34 ~~(6)~~(7) A statement prohibiting retaliation following a report of suspected bullying;

35 (8) A requirement that all teachers and other school employees shall annually receive
36 training in bullying identification and prevention; and

37 ~~(7)~~(9) Provisions consistent with the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section."

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SECTION 2.

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