

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 205

Approved by the Governor February 7, 2008

Introduced by Howard, 9; Adams, 24; Ashford, 20; Avery, 28; Hudkins, 21; Kopplin, 3; Kruse, 13; Nantkes, 46; Preister, 5.

FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-267, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006; to provide for a bullying policy; to change provisions relating to student discipline; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:

(a) Bullying disrupts a school's ability to educate students; and

(b) Bullying threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which such behavior can escalate into violence.

(2) For purposes of this section, bullying means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

(3) On or before July 1, 2009, each school district as defined in section 79-101 shall develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying prevention and education for all students.

(4) The school district shall review the policy annually.

Sec. 2. Section 79-267, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

79-267 The following student conduct shall constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

(1) Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;

(2) Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;

(3) Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;

(4) Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;

(5) Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;

(6) Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor;

(7) Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this subdivision shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;

(8) Engaging in bullying as defined in section 1 of this act;

~~(8)~~ (9) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

~~(9)~~ (10) Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or

interferes with school purposes; or

~~(10)~~ (11) A repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established pursuant to section 79-262 if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.

It is the intent of the Legislature that alternatives to suspension or expulsion be imposed against a student who is truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from required school activities.

Sec. 3. Original section 79-267, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.