



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

***Raised Bill No. 5145***

LCO No. 953



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ANNUAL REPORTING OF THE NUMBER OF VERIFIED ACTS OF BULLYING IN SCHOOLS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-222d of the 2020 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

4 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and  
5 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of bullying  
6 and teen dating violence in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable  
7 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees  
8 and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be  
9 notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which  
10 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of  
11 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school  
12 employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to  
13 orally notify the safe school climate specialist, described in section 10-  
14 222k, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist  
15 is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee

16 witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not  
17 later than two school days after making such oral report, (4) require the  
18 safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the  
19 investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such  
20 investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports  
21 made under this section and that the parents or guardians of the student  
22 alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and the parents or  
23 guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were  
24 directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced,  
25 (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous  
26 reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the  
27 basis of an anonymous report, (6) include a prevention and intervention  
28 strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, for school employees to deal  
29 with bullying and teen dating violence, (7) provide for the inclusion of  
30 language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (8) require  
31 each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit  
32 any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students  
33 against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours  
34 after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4) of  
35 this subsection, (9) require each school to invite the parents or guardians  
36 of a student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to  
37 communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by  
38 the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was  
39 directed and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of  
40 bullying, (10) require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a  
41 student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate  
42 and distinct from the meeting required in subdivision (9) of this  
43 subsection, to discuss specific interventions undertaken by the school to  
44 prevent further acts of bullying, (11) establish a procedure for each  
45 school to document and maintain records relating to reports and  
46 investigations of bullying in such school and to maintain a list of the  
47 number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list  
48 available for public inspection, [and annually report such number to the  
49 Department of Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the  
50 Commissioner of Education,] (12) direct the development of case-by-

51 case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against  
52 a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the  
53 same individual that may include both counseling and discipline, (13)  
54 prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual who  
55 reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying, (14) direct the  
56 development of student safety support plans for students against whom  
57 an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school  
58 will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying, (15)  
59 require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the  
60 appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the  
61 principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute  
62 criminal conduct, (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a  
63 school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program  
64 whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus  
65 or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of  
66 education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic  
67 mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of  
68 education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i)  
69 creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom  
70 such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student  
71 against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially  
72 disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school, (17)  
73 require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all  
74 school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school  
75 district's safe school climate plan, and (18) require that all school  
76 employees annually complete the training described in section 10-220a  
77 or section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)  
78 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision  
79 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of school  
80 employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the  
81 commission of further acts of bullying.

82 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-222d of the 2020 supplement to the  
83 general statutes, as amended by section 3 of public act 19-166, is  
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

85 2021):

86 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and  
87 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of bullying  
88 and teen dating violence in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable  
89 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees  
90 and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be  
91 notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which  
92 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of  
93 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school  
94 employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to  
95 orally notify the safe school climate specialist, described in section 10-  
96 222k, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist  
97 is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee  
98 witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not  
99 later than two school days after making such oral report, (4) require the  
100 safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the  
101 investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such  
102 investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports  
103 made under this section and that the parents or guardians of the student  
104 alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and the parents or  
105 guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were  
106 directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced,  
107 (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous  
108 reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the  
109 basis of an anonymous report, (6) include a prevention and intervention  
110 strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, for school employees to deal  
111 with bullying and teen dating violence, (7) provide for the inclusion of  
112 language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (8) require  
113 each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit  
114 any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students  
115 against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours  
116 after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4) of  
117 this subsection (A) of the results of such investigation, and (B) verbally  
118 and by electronic mail, if such parents' or guardians' electronic mail

119 addresses are known, that such parents or guardians may refer to the  
120 plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under  
121 sections 10-4a and 10-4b published on the Internet web site of the local  
122 or regional board of education pursuant to section 10-222r, (9) require  
123 each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student against whom  
124 such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or  
125 guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety  
126 of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and  
127 procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying, (10) require each  
128 school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any  
129 verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the  
130 meeting required in subdivision (9) of this subsection, to discuss specific  
131 interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of  
132 bullying, (11) establish a procedure for each school to document and  
133 maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in  
134 such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of  
135 bullying in such school and make such list available for public  
136 inspection, [and annually report such number to the Department of  
137 Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of  
138 Education,] (12) direct the development of case-by-case interventions  
139 for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual  
140 or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual  
141 that may include both counseling and discipline, (13) prohibit  
142 discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or  
143 assists in the investigation of an act of bullying, (14) direct the  
144 development of student safety support plans for students against whom  
145 an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school  
146 will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying, (15)  
147 require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the  
148 appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the  
149 principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute  
150 criminal conduct, (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a  
151 school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program  
152 whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus  
153 or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of

154 education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic  
155 mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of  
156 education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i)  
157 creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom  
158 such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student  
159 against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially  
160 disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school, (17)  
161 require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all  
162 school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school  
163 district's safe school climate plan, and (18) require that all school  
164 employees annually complete the training described in section 10-220a  
165 or section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)  
166 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision  
167 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of school  
168 employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the  
169 commission of further acts of bullying.

170 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-222h of the general statutes is  
171 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
172 *2020*):

173 (b) On or before February 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the  
174 department shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,  
175 submit a report on the status of its efforts pursuant to this section  
176 including, but not limited to, [the number of verified acts of bullying in  
177 the state,] an analysis of the responsive action taken by school districts,  
178 an analysis of student responses on the uniform grade-level appropriate  
179 questions described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of  
180 subsection (a) of this section and any recommendations it may have  
181 regarding additional activities or funding to prevent bullying in schools  
182 and improve school climate to the joint standing committees of the  
183 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
184 and children and to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
185 president pro tempore of the Senate and the majority and minority  
186 leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-222d(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-222d(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-222h(b)

***Statement of Purpose:***

To eliminate the requirement that each school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education annually report the number of verified acts of bullying in such school to the Department of Education.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*