# FIRST REGULAR SESSION HOUSE BILL NO. 120

# **101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MACKEY.

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.261, 167.161, and 167.171, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to suspension of students.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.261, 167.161, and 167.171, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.261, 167.161, and 167.171, to read as follows:

160.261. 1. The local board of education of each school district shall clearly establish a written policy of discipline, including the district's determination on the use of corporal 2 3 punishment and the procedures in which punishment will be applied. Each district's discipline policy shall prohibit the suspension of students in kindergarten or in any grade not higher 4 than the third grade. A written copy of the district's discipline policy and corporal punishment 5 procedures, if applicable, shall be provided to the pupil and parent or legal guardian of every 6 pupil enrolled in the district at the beginning of each school year and also made available in the 7 office of the superintendent of such district, during normal business hours, for public inspection. 8 9 All employees of the district shall annually receive instruction related to the specific contents of 10 the policy of discipline and any interpretations necessary to implement the provisions of the 11 policy in the course of their duties, including but not limited to approved methods of dealing with 12 acts of school violence, disciplining students with disabilities and instruction in the necessity and 13 requirements for confidentiality.

14 2. (1) The policy shall require school administrators to report acts of school violence to 15 all teachers at the attendance center and, in addition, to other school district employees with a 16 need to know.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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(2) For the purposes of this chapter or chapter 167, "need to know" is defined as school personnel who are directly responsible for the student's education or who otherwise interact with the student on a professional basis while acting within the scope of their assigned duties. As used in this section, the phrase "act of school violence" or "violent behavior" means the exertion of physical force by a student with the intent to do serious physical injury as defined in section

556.061 to another person while on school property, including a school bus in service on behalf

of the district, or while involved in school activities.
(3) The policy shall at a minimum require school administrators to report, as soon as reasonably practical, to the appropriate law enforcement agency any of the following crimes, or any act which if committed by an adult would be one of the following crimes, committed on school property including, but not limited to, actions on any school bus in service on behalf

## 28 of the district or while involved in school activities:

29 [(1)] (a) First degree murder under section 565.020;

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[(2)] (b) Second degree murder under section 565.021;

31 [(3)] (c) Kidnapping under section 565.110 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, or 32 kidnapping in the first degree under section 565.110;

33 [(4)] (d) First degree assault under section 565.050;

34 [(5)] (e) Rape in the first degree under section 566.030;

35 [(6)] (f) Sodomy in the first degree under section 566.060;

36 [(7)] (g) Burglary in the first degree under section 569.160;

37 [(8)] (h) Burglary in the second degree under section 569.170;

[(9)] (i) Robbery in the first degree under section 569.020 as it existed prior to January
 1, 2017, or robbery in the first degree under section 570.023;

40 [(10)] (j) Distribution of drugs under section 195.211 as it existed prior to January 1,

41 2017, or manufacture of a controlled substance under section 579.055;

42 [(11)] (k) Distribution of drugs to a minor under section 195.212 as it existed prior to 43 January 1, 2017, or delivery of a controlled substance under section 579.020;

44 [(12)] (I) Arson in the first degree under section 569.040;

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[(13)] (m) Voluntary manslaughter under section 565.023;
 [(14)] (n) Involuntary manslaughter under section 565.024 as it existed prior to January

46 [(14)] (n) Involuntary manslaughter under section 565.024 as it existed prior to January
47 1, 2017, involuntary manslaughter in the first degree under section 565.024, or involuntary
48 manslaughter in the second degree under section 565.027;

49 [(15)] (o) Second degree assault under section 565.060 as it existed prior to January 1,
 50 2017, or second degree assault under section 565.052;

51 [(16)] (p) Rape in the second degree under section 566.031;

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52 [(17)] (q) Felonious restraint under section 565.120 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, 53 or kidnapping in the second degree under section 565.120;

54 [(18)] (r) Property damage in the first degree under section 569.100;

55 [(19)] (s) The possession of a weapon under chapter 571;

56 [(20)] (t) Child molestation in the first degree pursuant to section 566.067 as it existed 57 prior to January 1, 2017, or child molestation in the first, second, or third degree pursuant to 58 section 566.067, 566.068, or 566.069;

59 [(21)] (u) Sodomy in the second degree pursuant to section 566.061;

60 [(22)] (v) Sexual misconduct involving a child pursuant to section 566.083;

61 [(23)] (w) Sexual abuse in the first degree pursuant to section 566.100;

62 [(24)] (x) Harassment under section 565.090 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, or 63 harassment in the first degree under section 565.090; or

64 [(25)] (y) Stalking under section 565.225 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, or 65 stalking in the first degree under section 565.225[ $\frac{1}{5}$ ].

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67 [committed on school property, including but not limited to actions on any school bus in service 68 on behalf of the district or while involved in school activities.]

69 (4) The policy shall require that any portion of a student's individualized education 70 program that is related to demonstrated or potentially violent behavior shall be provided to any 71 teacher and other school district employees who are directly responsible for the student's 72 education or who otherwise interact with the student on an educational basis while acting within 73 the scope of their assigned duties.

74 **(5)** The policy shall also contain the consequences of failure to obey standards of conduct 75 set by the local board of education, and the importance of the standards to the maintenance of 76 an atmosphere where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.

3. The policy shall provide that any student who is on suspension for any of the offenses listed in subsection 2 of this section or any act of violence or drug-related activity defined by school district policy as a serious violation of school discipline pursuant to subsection 9 of this section shall have as a condition of [his or her] the student's suspension the requirement that such student is not allowed, while on such suspension, to be within one thousand feet of any school property in the school district where such student attended school or any activity of that district, regardless of whether or not the activity takes place on district property unless:

84 (1) Such student is under the direct supervision of the student's parent, legal guardian,
85 or custodian and the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has authorized the student
86 to be on school property;

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87 (2) Such student is under the direct supervision of another adult designated by the 88 student's parent, legal guardian, or custodian, in advance, in writing, to the principal of the school 89 which suspended the student and the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has 90 authorized the student to be on school property;

91 (3) Such student is enrolled in and attending an alternative school that is located within
92 one thousand feet of a public school in the school district where such student attended school;
93 or

94 (4) Such student resides within one thousand feet of any public school in the school
95 district where such student attended school in which case such student may be on the property
96 of [his or her] such student's residence without direct adult supervision.

97 4. Any student who violates the condition of suspension required pursuant to subsection 98 3 of this section may be subject to expulsion or further suspension pursuant to the provisions of 99 sections 167.161, 167.164, and 167.171. In making this determination consideration shall be 100 given to whether the student poses a threat to the safety of any child or school employee and 101 whether such student's unsupervised presence within one thousand feet of the school is disruptive 102 to the educational process or undermines the effectiveness of the school's disciplinary policy. 103 Removal of any pupil who is a student with a disability is subject to state and federal procedural 104 rights. This section shall not limit a school district's ability to:

(1) Prohibit all students who are suspended from being on school property or attendingan activity while on suspension;

107 (2) Discipline students for off-campus conduct that negatively affects the educational 108 environment to the extent allowed by law.

5. The policy shall provide for a suspension for a period of not less than one year, or expulsion, for a student who is determined to have brought a weapon to school, including but not limited to the school playground or the school parking lot, brought a weapon on a school bus or brought a weapon to a school activity whether on or off of the school property in violation of district policy, except that:

114 (1) The superintendent or, in a school district with no high school, the principal of the 115 school which such child attends may modify such suspension on a case-by-case basis; [and]

(2) This section shall not prevent the school district from providing educational servicesin an alternative setting to a student suspended under the provisions of this section; and

(3) The policy shall prohibit the suspension of students in kindergarten or in anygrade not higher than the third grade.

6. For the purpose of this section, the term "weapon" shall mean a firearm as defined under 18 U.S.C. Section 921 and the following items, as defined in section 571.010: a blackjack, a concealable firearm, an explosive weapon, a firearm a firearm silencer, a gas gun, a knife,

123 knuckles, a machine gun, a projectile weapon, a rifle, a shotgun, a spring gun, or a switchblade 124 knife; except that this section shall not be construed to prohibit a school board from adopting a 125 policy to allow a Civil War reenactor to carry a Civil War era weapon on school property for 126 educational purposes so long as the firearm is unloaded. The local board of education shall 127 define weapon in the discipline policy. Such definition shall include the weapons defined in this 128 subsection but may also include other weapons.

129 7. All school district personnel responsible for the care and supervision of students are 130 authorized to hold every pupil strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on any 131 property of the school, on any school bus going to or returning from school, during 132 school-sponsored activities, or during intermission or recess periods.

133 8. Teachers and other authorized district personnel in public schools responsible for the 134 care, supervision, and discipline of schoolchildren, including volunteers selected with reasonable 135 care by the school district, shall not be civilly liable when acting in conformity with the 136 established policies developed by each board, including but not limited to policies of student 137 discipline or when reporting to [his or her] the individual's supervisor or other person as 138 mandated by state law acts of school violence or threatened acts of school violence, within the 139 course and scope of the duties of the teacher, authorized district personnel or volunteer, when 140 such individual is acting in conformity with the established policies developed by the board. 141 Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a new cause of action against such school 142 district, or to relieve the school district from liability for the negligent acts of such persons.

143 9. Each school board shall define in its discipline policy acts of violence and any other 144 acts that constitute a serious violation of that policy. "Acts of violence" as defined by school 145 boards shall include but not be limited to exertion of physical force by a student with the intent 146 to do serious bodily harm to another person while on school property, including a school bus in 147 service on behalf of the district, or while involved in school activities. School districts shall for 148 each student enrolled in the school district compile and maintain records of any serious violation 149 of the district's discipline policy. Such records shall be made available to teachers and other 150 school district employees with a need to know while acting within the scope of their assigned 151 duties, and shall be provided as required in section 167.020 to any school district in which the 152 student subsequently attempts to enroll.

153 10. Spanking, when administered by certificated personnel and in the presence of a 154 witness who is an employee of the school district, or the use of reasonable force to protect 155 persons or property, when administered by personnel of a school district in a reasonable manner 156 in accordance with the local board of education's written policy of discipline, is not abuse within 157 the meaning of chapter 210. The provisions of sections 210.110 to 210.165 notwithstanding, the 158 children's division shall not have jurisdiction over or investigate any report of alleged child abuse arising out of or related to the use of reasonable force to protect persons or property when administered by personnel of a school district or any spanking administered in a reasonable manner by any certificated school personnel in the presence of a witness who is an employee of the school district pursuant to a written policy of discipline established by the board of education of the school district, as long as no allegation of sexual misconduct arises from the spanking or use of force.

165 11. If a student reports alleged sexual misconduct on the part of a teacher or other school 166 employee to a person employed in a school facility who is required to report such misconduct 167 to the children's division under section 210.115, such person and the superintendent of the school 168 district shall report the allegation to the children's division as set forth in section 210.115. 169 Reports made to the children's division under this subsection shall be investigated by the division 170 in accordance with the provisions of sections 210.145 to 210.153 and shall not be investigated 171 by the school district under subsections 12 to 20 of this section for purposes of determining 172 whether the allegations should or should not be substantiated. The district may investigate the 173 allegations for the purpose of making any decision regarding the employment of the accused 174 employee.

175 12. Upon receipt of any reports of child abuse by the children's division other than 176 reports provided under subsection 11 of this section, pursuant to sections 210.110 to 210.165 177 which allegedly involve personnel of a school district, the children's division shall notify the 178 superintendent of schools of the district or, if the person named in the alleged incident is the 179 superintendent of schools, the president of the school board of the school district where the 180 alleged incident occurred.

181 13. If, after an initial investigation, the superintendent of schools or the president of the 182 school board finds that the report involves an alleged incident of child abuse other than the 183 administration of a spanking by certificated school personnel or the use of reasonable force to 184 protect persons or property when administered by school personnel pursuant to a written policy 185 of discipline or that the report was made for the sole purpose of harassing a public school 186 employee, the superintendent of schools or the president of the school board shall immediately 187 refer the matter back to the children's division and take no further action. In all matters referred 188 back to the children's division, the division shall treat the report in the same manner as other 189 reports of alleged child abuse received by the division.

190 14. If the report pertains to an alleged incident which arose out of or is related to a 191 spanking administered by certificated personnel or the use of reasonable force to protect persons 192 or property when administered by personnel of a school district pursuant to a written policy of 193 discipline or a report made for the sole purpose of harassing a public school employee, a 194 notification of the reported child abuse shall be sent by the superintendent of schools or the

195 president of the school board to the law enforcement in the county in which the alleged incident 196 occurred.

197 15. The report shall be jointly investigated by the law enforcement officer and the 198 superintendent of schools or, if the subject of the report is the superintendent of schools, by a law 199 enforcement officer and the president of the school board or such president's designee.

16. The investigation shall begin no later than forty-eight hours after notification from the children's division is received, and shall consist of, but need not be limited to, interviewing and recording statements of the child and the child's parents or guardian within two working days after the start of the investigation, of the school district personnel allegedly involved in the report, and of any witnesses to the alleged incident.

17. The law enforcement officer and the investigating school district personnel shall sisue separate reports of their findings and recommendations after the conclusion of the investigation to the school board of the school district within seven days after receiving notice from the children's division.

18. The reports shall contain a statement of conclusion as to whether the report of allegedchild abuse is substantiated or is unsubstantiated.

19. The school board shall consider the separate reports referred to in subsection 17 of this section and shall issue its findings and conclusions and the action to be taken, if any, within seven days after receiving the last of the two reports. The findings and conclusions shall be made in substantially the following form:

(1) The report of the alleged child abuse is unsubstantiated. The law enforcement officer and the investigating school board personnel agree that there was not a preponderance of evidence to substantiate that abuse occurred;

(2) The report of the alleged child abuse is substantiated. The law enforcement officer
and the investigating school district personnel agree that the preponderance of evidence is
sufficient to support a finding that the alleged incident of child abuse did occur;

(3) The issue involved in the alleged incident of child abuse is unresolved. The law enforcement officer and the investigating school personnel are unable to agree on their findings and conclusions on the alleged incident.

20. The findings and conclusions of the school board under subsection 19 of this section shall be sent to the children's division. If the findings and conclusions of the school board are that the report of the alleged child abuse is unsubstantiated, the investigation shall be terminated, the case closed, and no record shall be entered in the children's division central registry. If the findings and conclusions of the school board are that the report of the alleged child abuse is substantiated, the children's division shall report the incident to the prosecuting attorney of the appropriate county along with the findings and conclusions of the school district and shall include the information in the division's central registry. If the findings and conclusions of the school board are that the issue involved in the alleged incident of child abuse is unresolved, the children's division shall report the incident to the prosecuting attorney of the appropriate county along with the findings and conclusions of the school board, however, the incident and the names of the parties allegedly involved shall not be entered into the central registry of the children's division unless and until the alleged child abuse is substantiated by a court of competent jurisdiction.

238 21. Any superintendent of schools, president of a school board or such person's designee 239 or law enforcement officer who knowingly falsifies any report of any matter pursuant to this 240 section or who knowingly withholds any information relative to any investigation or report 241 pursuant to this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

242 22. In order to ensure the safety of all students, should a student be expelled for bringing 243 a weapon to school, violent behavior, or for an act of school violence, that student shall not, for 244 the purposes of the accreditation process of the Missouri school improvement plan, be 245 considered a dropout or be included in the calculation of that district's educational persistence 246 ratio.

167.161. 1. The school board of any district, after notice to parents or others having 2 custodial care and a hearing upon charges preferred, may suspend or expel a pupil for conduct 3 which is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the schools or which tends to impair the 4 morale or good conduct of the pupils. In addition to the authority granted in section 167.171, 5 a school board may authorize, by general rule, the immediate removal of a pupil upon a finding by the principal, superintendent, or school board that the pupil poses a threat of harm to such 6 pupil or others, as evidenced by the prior conduct of such pupil. Prior disciplinary actions shall 7 8 not be used as the sole basis for removal, suspension or expulsion of a pupil. Removal of any 9 pupil who is a student with a disability is subject to state and federal procedural rights. At the 10 hearing upon any such removal, suspension or expulsion, the board shall consider the evidence 11 and statements that the parties present and may consider records of past disciplinary actions, 12 criminal court records or juvenile court records consistent with other provisions of the law, or 13 the actions of the pupil which would constitute a criminal offense. The board may provide by 14 general rule not inconsistent with this section for the procedure and conduct of such hearings. 15 After meeting with the superintendent or [his] the superintendent's designee to discuss the 16 expulsion, the parent, custodian or the student, if at least eighteen years of age, may, in writing, 17 waive any right to a hearing before the board of education.

2. The school board of any district, after notice to parents or others having custodial care and a hearing upon the matter, may suspend a pupil upon a finding that the pupil has been charged, convicted or pled guilty in a court of general jurisdiction for the commission of a felony

criminal violation of state or federal law. At a hearing required by this subsection, the board shall consider statements that the parties present. The board may provide for the procedure and conduct of such hearings.

3. The school board shall make a good-faith effort to have the parents or others having custodial care present at any such hearing. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, student discipline hearings or proceedings related to the rights of students to attend school or to receive academic credit shall not be required to comply with the requirements applicable to contested case hearings as provided in chapter 536, provided that appropriate due process procedures shall be observed which shall include the right for a trial de novo by the circuit court.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of this section, the school
board of a district shall not suspend any student in kindergarten or in any grade not higher
than the third grade.

167.171. 1. The school board in any district, by general rule and for the causes provided in section 167.161, may authorize the summary suspension of pupils, other than pupils in 2 kindergarten or in any grade not higher than the third grade, by principals of schools for 3 4 a period not to exceed ten school days and by the superintendent of schools for a period not to 5 exceed one hundred and eighty school days. In case of a suspension by the superintendent for more than ten school days, the pupil, the pupil's parents or others having such pupil's custodial 6 care may appeal the decision of the superintendent to the board or to a committee of board 7 members appointed by the president of the board which shall have full authority to act in lieu of 8 9 the board. Any suspension by a principal shall be immediately reported to the superintendent 10 who may revoke the suspension at any time. In event of an appeal to the board, the 11 superintendent shall promptly transmit to it a full report in writing of the facts relating to the 12 suspension, the action taken by the superintendent and the reasons therefor and the board, upon 13 request, shall grant a hearing to the appealing party to be conducted as provided in section 14 167.161.

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2. No pupil shall be suspended unless:

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2. No pupil shall be suspended uness:

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(1) The pupil shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against such pupil;(2) If the pupil denies the charges, such pupil shall be given an oral or written

explanation of the facts which form the basis of the proposed suspension;

19 (3) The pupil shall be given an opportunity to present such pupil's version of the 20 incident; and

(4) In the event of a suspension for more than ten school days, where the pupil gives
notice that such pupil wishes to appeal the suspension to the board, the suspension shall be
stayed until the board renders its decision, unless in the judgment of the superintendent of

schools, or of the district superintendent, the pupil's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, in which case the pupil may be immediately removed from school, and the notice and hearing shall follow as soon as practicable.

28 3. (1) No school board shall readmit or enroll a pupil properly suspended for more than ten consecutive school days for an act of school violence as defined in subsection 2 of section 29 30 160.261 regardless of whether [or not] such act was committed at a public school or at a private 31 school in this state, provided that such act shall have resulted in the suspension or expulsion of 32 such pupil in the case of a private school, or otherwise permit such pupil to attend school without 33 first holding a conference to review the conduct that resulted in the expulsion or suspension and 34 any remedial actions needed to prevent any future occurrences of such or related conduct. The 35 conference shall include the appropriate school officials including any teacher employed in that 36 school or district directly involved with the conduct that resulted in the suspension or expulsion, 37 the pupil, the parent or guardian of the pupil or any agency having legal jurisdiction, care, 38 custody or control of the pupil. The school board shall notify in writing the parents or guardians 39 and all other parties of the time, place, and agenda of any such conference. Failure of any party 40 to attend this conference shall not preclude holding the conference.

41 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, no pupil shall be 42 readmitted or enrolled to a regular program of instruction if:

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[(1)] (a) Such pupil has been convicted of; or

44 [(2)] (b) An indictment or information has been filed alleging that the pupil has 45 committed one of the acts enumerated in **paragraph** (d) of this subdivision [(4) of this 46 subsection] to which there has been no final judgment; or

47 [(3)] (c) A petition has been filed pursuant to section 211.091 alleging that the pupil has
48 committed one of the acts enumerated in paragraph (d) of this subdivision [(4) of this
49 subsection] to which there has been no final judgment; or

50 [(4)] (d) The pupil has been adjudicated to have committed an act which if committed 51 by an adult would be one of the following:

52 [(a)] a. First degree murder under section 565.020;

53 [(b)] b. Second degree murder under section 565.021;

54 [(c)] c. First degree assault under section 565.050;

55 [(d)] **d.** Forcible rape under section 566.030 as it existed prior to August 28, 2013, or 56 rape in the first degree under section 566.030;

57 [(e)] e. Forcible sodomy under section 566.060 as it existed prior to August 28, 2013, 58 or sodomy in the first degree under section 566.060;

59 [(f)] **f.** Statutory rape under section 566.032;

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60 [(g)] g. Statutory sodomy under section 566.062;

61 [(h)] h. Robbery in the first degree under section 569.020 as it existed prior to January 62 1, 2017, or robbery in the first degree under section 570.023;

63 [(+)] i. Distribution of drugs to a minor under section 195.212 as it existed prior to 64 January 1, 2017, or delivery of a controlled substance under section 579.020;

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[(i)] j. Arson in the first degree under section 569.040;

66 [(k)] k. Kidnapping or kidnapping in the first degree, when classified as a class A felony 67 under section 565.110.

68 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the readmittance or enrollment of any pupil 69 if a petition has been dismissed, or when a pupil has been acquitted or adjudicated not to have 70 committed any of the above acts. This subsection shall not apply to a student with a disability, 71 as identified under state eligibility criteria, who is convicted or adjudicated guilty as a result of 72 an action related to the student's disability. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to 73 prohibit a school district which provides an alternative education program from enrolling a pupil 74 in an alternative education program if the district determines such enrollment is appropriate.

75 4. If a pupil is attempting to enroll in a school district during a suspension or expulsion 76 from another in-state or out-of-state school district including a private, charter or parochial 77 school or school district, a conference with the superintendent or the superintendent's designee 78 may be held at the request of the parent, court-appointed legal guardian, someone acting as a 79 parent as defined by rule in the case of a special education student, or the pupil to consider if the 80 conduct of the pupil would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in the district in which the 81 pupil is enrolling. Upon a determination by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee 82 that such conduct would have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in the district in which the 83 pupil is enrolling or attempting to enroll, the school district may make such suspension or 84 expulsion from another school or district effective in the district in which the pupil is enrolling 85 or attempting to enroll. Upon a determination by the superintendent or the superintendent's 86 designee that such conduct would not have resulted in a suspension or expulsion in the district 87 in which the student is enrolling or attempting to enroll, the school district shall not make such 88 suspension or expulsion effective in its district in which the student is enrolling or attempting 89 to enroll.

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