

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2570

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HILL.

6507H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 162.069, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to training requirements for certain individuals regarding identifying signs of child abuse.

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

Section A. Section 162.069, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 162.069 and 210.235, to read as follows:

162.069. 1. Every school district shall, by March 1, 2012, promulgate a written policy concerning employee-student communication. The governing body of each charter school shall adopt a written policy concerning employee-student communication by January 1, 2014. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to, the use of electronic media and other mechanisms to prevent improper communications between staff members and students.

2. The school board of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall, by January 1, 2014, adopt and implement training guidelines and an annual training program for all school employees who are mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect under section 210.115.

3. Every school district and the governing body of each charter school shall, by July 1, [2014] **2017**, include in its teacher and employee training [a component that provides up-to-date and reliable information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and danger signals of potentially abusive relationships between children and adults] **an in-person component to address methods for preventing and for increasing teacher and employee awareness of issues regarding child abuse and neglect including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect.** The training shall emphasize the importance of mandatory reporting of abuse under section 210.115 including the obligation of

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.

18 mandated reporters to report suspected abuse by other mandated reporters, and how to establish  
19 an atmosphere of trust so that students feel their school has concerned adults with whom they  
20 feel comfortable discussing matters related to abuse. The training shall also emphasize that:

21 (1) All mandatory reporters shall, upon finding reasonable cause, directly and  
22 immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect as provided in section 210.115;

23 (2) No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting under section  
24 210.115; and

25 (3) No person making a report under section 210.115 shall be subject to any sanction,  
26 including any adverse employment action, for making such report.

27 **4. The training required under subsection 3 of this section shall:**

28 **(1) Be provided annually and in person by an instructor;**

29 **(2) Include, but not be limited to, the following:**

30 **(a) Factors indicating a child is at risk for child abuse or neglect;**

31 **(b) Likely warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect;**

32 **(c) Internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who is at risk for child  
33 abuse or neglect, including referral to a school counselor, social worker, or mental health  
34 professional; and**

35 **(d) Methods for reducing a child's risk of abuse or neglect; and**

36 **(3) Be provided at no cost to the school district or charter school by a community  
37 organization or nonprofit entity that has a relevant, existing, and research-based training  
38 program regarding child abuse and neglect matters.**

**210.235. 1. Beginning January 1, 2017, all employees of licensed child care facilities  
2 shall successfully complete a training, approved by the department, on preventing and  
3 increasing awareness of issues regarding child abuse and neglect.**

**4 2. The training required under this section shall:**

5 **(1) Be provided annually and in person by an instructor;**

6 **(2) Include, but not be limited to, the following:**

7 **(a) Factors indicating a child is at risk for child abuse or neglect;**

8 **(b) Likely warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect;**

9 **(c) Procedures for seeking assistance for a child who is at risk for child abuse or  
10 neglect, including referral to a school counselor, social worker, or mental health  
11 professional; and**

12 **(d) Methods for reducing a child's risk of abuse or neglect; and**

13 **(3) Be provided at no cost to the child care facility by a community organization or  
14 nonprofit entity that has a relevant, existing, and research-based training program  
15 regarding child abuse and neglect matters.**

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