

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 967

Introduced by DeBoer, 10.

Read first time January 13, 2020

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-2,137, Reissue
- 2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions regarding
- 3 bullying prevention and education; to provide duties; and to repeal
- 4 the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-2,137, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
2 is amended to read:

3 79-2,137 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

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

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

12 (3) ~~Each On or before July 1, 2009, each school district as defined~~
13 ~~in section 79-101 shall develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying~~
14 ~~prevention and education for all students. On and after August 1, 2020,~~
15 ~~the policy shall, in age-appropriate terms, include, but not be limited~~
16 ~~to:~~

17 (a) A clear statement that the school district prohibits harassment,
18 intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying on school grounds, in any
19 vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school
20 purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at any school-
21 sponsored activity or school-sponsored athletic event;

22 (b) A clear definition of bullying consistent with this section;

23 (c) A procedure for reporting any act of bullying, including, but
24 not limited to, (i) the manner for reporting any act of bullying, (ii)
25 the means by which such reports may be made anonymously or in a manner
26 that protects victims or witnesses of bullying, and (iii) the school
27 officials, designated by job title, who are responsible for receiving
28 such reports;

29 (d) A procedure for prompt investigation of a report of an act of
30 bullying, including, but not limited to, (i) the school officials,
31 designated by job title, who are responsible for investigating such

1 reports and (ii) a timeline for the investigative process that ensures a
2 prompt and thorough investigation;

3 (e) A procedure to request (i) a school district review of the
4 response of a school in such district to a report of an act of bullying
5 or (ii) an appeal of the results of an investigation of a report of an
6 act of bullying;

7 (f) A procedure to ensure that the parents or guardians of any
8 student involved in any investigation are promptly notified of the report
9 of an act of bullying and the investigation; and

10 (g) A prohibition against reprisal or retaliation by any student or
11 employee of the school district against any person who reports an act of
12 bullying, provides information during an investigation of an act of
13 bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about an act of
14 bullying.

15 (4) Each school district shall make the policy required under
16 subsection (3) of this section available to all parents, guardians,
17 school employees, and students in a student or employee handbook, which
18 shall be available at each school office or school district office and on
19 the school or school district web site in languages which are most
20 prevalent among the students and parents or guardians.

21 (5) ~~(4)~~ The school district shall annually review the policy
22 required under subsection (3) of this section ~~annually~~.

23 Sec. 2. Original section 79-2,137, Reissue Revised Statutes of
24 Nebraska, is repealed.