

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 446

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The Legislature has declared that bullying disrupts a school's ability to educate students and threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which such behavior can escalate into violence. The Legislature has previously defined bullying to mean 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. The Legislature required each school district to adopt and annually review anti-bullying policies in 2009.

According to studies cited by the state Department of Education, fifteen to twenty-five percent of students in the United States are bullied with some frequency, fifteen to twenty percent report that they bully others with some frequency, and seventy-five percent of students reported that they had experienced some form of bullying during their school years. Bullying tends to peak in transition years, moving from elementary to middle school and middle to high school.

Recent unfortunate instances of bullying based on race, ethnicity, national origin and immigration status and toward LGBTQ students in Nebraska have underscored the need to ensure state policy and individual school district policy are meeting best practices and to ensure schools are proactively meeting their legal obligations to ensure students are not bullied or discriminated against.

The purpose of this resolution is to examine existing best practices for anti-bullying policies and practices in K-12 education and the feasibility of adopting these standards in Nebraska. The issues examined in this study shall

include, but not be limited to:

(1) An exploration of the current anti-bullying laws, policies, and practices in Nebraska schools;

(2) An exploration of existing best practices to prevent bullying, harassment, and discrimination in public schools; and

(3) An exploration of any other legal or policy issues related to ensuring Nebraska anti-bullying law and policies are meeting best practices for our schools and our students as appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.