

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB2017
Version:	Int
Request Number:	11671
Author:	Pae
Date:	2/14/2025
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

HB 2017 includes within the definition of bullying the use of online platforms. The measure provides a definition of "severe emotional distress". The measure modifies the penalties for bullying through the use of telecommunication or online platform by establishing a fine not to exceed \$500, imprisonment in the county jail for up to 1 year or both for a first offense. A second offense is punishable as a felony with a fine not to exceed \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 2 years or both. Third and subsequent offenses are a felony punishable by a fine not less than \$5,000, imprisonment for up to 10 years or both. The measure modifies school bullying policies by requiring the policy to address bullying by electronic communication if the communication is disruptive or interferes with the school's education mission or the education of any student. The measure requires the school policy to have a process for school employees, volunteers or parents to report an act of bullying to school officials or law enforcement. A school employee, school volunteer, a student, or the parent or legal guardian of a student who promptly reports in good faith an incident of bullying to a school official and who makes the report is immune from a cause of action for damages arising out of the reporting itself or any failure to remedy the reported incident of bullying. The policy must contain a process to notify the parent of a victim within 24 hours of receipt of the report of bullying. If a student expresses suicidal thoughts or intentions or encourages another student to commit suicide, the parents or legal guardians of the student is to be notified immediately. The measure requires the district school board to hold public hearings prior to adoption of school bullying policy.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.