

SENATE BILL 916

By Lowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38;  
Title 39 and Title 49, relative to misconduct.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4503, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

(e) If a law enforcement officer, school resource officer, or other school security officer investigates harassment, intimidation, bullying, hazing, or cyber-bullying of a student or a visitor of a school within an LEA who is under eighteen (18) years of age and the harassment, intimidation, bullying, hazing, or cyber-bullying involves an alleged criminal offense, then the law enforcement officer, school resource officer, or other school security officer shall file a report with the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the alleged offense in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g).

(f) A person who knowingly interferes with a law enforcement officer, school resource officer, or other school security officer to prevent the officer from consulting with a district attorney general's office regarding an alleged criminal offense involving harassment, intimidation, bullying, hazing, or cyber-bullying of a person who is under eighteen (18) years of age commits a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4502, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(4) "Hazing" means an intentional or a reckless act in this state, on or off LEA property, by one (1) student acting alone or with others, that is directed against any other

student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or that induces or coerces a student to endanger that student's mental or physical health or safety. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.