

SENATE BILL 2354

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 45, relative to harassment and bullying.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4503(b), is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of subdivision (12), placing the period “.” at the end of subdivision (13) with the language “; and”, and adding the following as a new subdivision (14):

(14) A statement that the policy prohibits harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying by students, school staff, and volunteers, and that employees of the LEA who engage in such behavior will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4504, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following language as a new subsection:

(b) Each LEA is encouraged to annually review its policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying. Each LEA shall transmit a copy of any changes in its policy to the commissioner of education in a timely manner.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4503(c), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Each LEA shall require notice of what constitutes harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying, that this activity is prohibited, and that the consequences of engaging in harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying shall be conspicuously

posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium, and school bus in the district.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.