



HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES

Bill Detail: SB23-296

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Title Prevent Harassment And Discrimination In Schools

Status Governor Signed (06/06/2023)

Bill Subjects • Education & School Finance (Pre & K-12)

House Sponsors [L. Herod \(D\)](#)
[J. Bacon \(D\)](#)

Senate Sponsors [F. Winter \(D\)](#)
[J. Marchman \(D\)](#)

House Committee Judiciary

Senate Committee Education

Date Introduced 04/21/2023

Summary

The bill requires that a report received by a public school that enrolls students in any of grades kindergarten through 12 (public school) that alleges harassment or discrimination is confidential. The bill requires a public school to:

- Accept reports of harassment or discrimination in writing or in-person; by phone, e-mail, or online form; or through safe2tell;
- Post notices describing how a student can report harassment or discrimination to the school;
- Adopt procedures for investigating reports of harassment or discrimination;
- Retain harassment or discrimination case files for 7 years;
- Grant an excused absence to a student for certain out-of-school appointments related to the student experiencing harassment or discrimination; and
- Provide accommodations and supportive measures to a student experiencing harassment or discrimination.

The bill requires a public school to adopt a written policy (policy) that protects students experiencing harassment or discrimination. The policy must include the following:

- Information on reporting options for students, including contact information for the school staff member designated to receive reports;
- An explanation of the school's role in responding to reports of harassment or discrimination;
- Information about resources for victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence;
- Amnesty protections for a student who reports, or is a witness to a report of, harassment or discrimination for any school policy violation by the student related to the

harassment or discrimination; and

- Information about available accommodations and supportive measures.

A public school shall make the policy available annually to students, students' parents and legal guardians, and school staff.

The bill requires a public school to annually provide training to school staff about harassment and discrimination, including training about

the school's policy.

The bill requires public schools to report information about harassment or discrimination to school districts, who report that information to the department of education (department). An institute charter school reports the information directly to the department. The department reports the information to the sexual misconduct advisory committee in the department of higher education.

The bill waives immunity for a public entity for a failure to comply with any requirement concerning harassment or discrimination in public schools described in the bill.

- Committee Reports with Amendments**
- May 06, 2023: [House Appropriations Committee Report](#)
 - May 05, 2023: [House Judiciary Committee Report](#)
 - April 28, 2023: [Senate Appropriations Committee Report](#)
 - April 26, 2023: [Senate Education Committee Report](#)

Full Text [Full Text of Bill](#) (pdf) (most recent)

Fiscal Notes [Fiscal Notes](#) (04/27/2023) (most recent)

Additional Bill Documents [Bill Documents](#)

Including:

- Past bill versions
- Past fiscal notes
- Committee activity and documents
- Bill History

Lobbyists [Lobbyists](#)

Audio

Votes [House and Senate Votes](#)

Vote Totals [Vote Totals by Party](#)