

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Krummel, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires school districts to adopt policy prohibiting cyberbullying. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Proliferation of electronic devices in schools
- Concern over potential growth in cyberbullying
- Definition of cyberbullying
- Input from interested parties in drafting amendment
- Blogs and anonymity of electronic harassment
- Freedom of speech
- Scope of coverage of cyberbullying policies for cyberbullying occurring off-campus

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** The amendment defines cyberbullying as “the use of any electronic communication device to harass, intimidate or bully” and adds cyberbullying throughout multiple sections of the law discussing bullying at schools and school district policies toward bullying.

**BACKGROUND:** HB 2637-A is designed to ensure that school districts are addressing cyberbullying as well as harassment, intimidation, and bullying, which current law defines as “Any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation or at any official school bus stop, and that has the effect of (a) physically harming a student or damaging a student's property; (b) knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property; or (c) creating a hostile educational environment.”