

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bonamici
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/13, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires districts to include specified elements in policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying and prohibiting cyberbullying. Requires districts to make policies annually available to parents, guardians, school employees and students. Declares school district to be nonstandard if it does not comply with requirements. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Use of guidance counselors as a resource
- Consistency of existing policies
- Impact of the measure
- Distribution and communication of policies through handbooks
- Definition of cyberbullying
- Impact on small schools
- Provision of model policies
- Inclusion of “ethnicity” as a protected class

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Under House Bill 2599A, the definition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying includes interfering with the psychological well-being of a student and may be based on, but not limited to, membership in a protected class. The measure requires districts to add the following items to existing policies on harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies: the definition of protected class; a statement of the scope of the policy; procedures that are uniform throughout the district on reporting and investigating harassment, intimidation, and bullying including the job title of responsible school officials; and procedures for a person to request that a district review the actions a school took in responding to a harassment, intimidation, or bullying report. Districts that fail to comply with the new harassment, intimidation, and bullying policy requirements would be considered nonstandard and State School Fund moneys could be withheld under ORS 327.103.