

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Garrett, Hicks, Nolan, Olson, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, Whisnant, Barker, Krieger

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Bill Taylor, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school employees to report to the appropriate school official acts of “harassment, intimidation or bullying” including when this activity is conducted via electronic communication. Allows a student or volunteer to also report these acts.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Harmful impact on those being bullied.
- Duty of school teachers and other school employees to report

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Each school district must adopt a policy prohibiting “harassment, intimidation or bullying.” “Harassment, intimidation or bullying” can be conducted through the use of “any electronic communication device and is if so conducted is then known as ‘cyberbullying.’”

ORS 339.351 defines “harassment, intimidation or bullying” as any act that: (1) Substantially interferes with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance; (2) Takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, or school-provided transportation or any official school bus stop; (3) 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, including interfering with the psychological well-being of a student; and, (4) May be based on, but not limited to, the protected class status of a person.