

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, George, Morse, Steiner Hayward, Hass
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school employees to report acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying and allows remedial action for failure to report. Requires policy prohibiting such acts to allow students and volunteers to make reports voluntarily and anonymously.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Personal examples of impact of cyberbullying
- School-based initiatives aimed at bullying
- Removal of provisions from 2011 measure requiring school volunteers to report

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Harassment, intimidation and bullying are defined as instances of verbal abuse or physical altercations perpetrated against a person. Cyberbullying occurs when an individual is harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, threatened or tormented using digital technology.

Senate Bill 1555 requires school employees to report acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying according to school district policy and allows for remedial action against any school employee who fails to report such acts of which they become aware. The measure also encourages students and volunteers who witness such acts to report them according to school district policy and allows the report to be submitted anonymously.