

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 02/10/16**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference. (Printed A-Eng.)**Meeting Dates:** 02/08, 02/10**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, Hack, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, Wilson

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs State Board of Education to adopt by rule complaint process for reporting of district policy in violation of state law prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying. Directs board to adopt rules relating to complaint investigation and standards to determine whether district policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying complies with state law. Requires Department of Education to record number of complaints department receives. Directs department to establish system to track number of reported incidences of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying that occur in each school district. Requires school district be permitted to adhere to policy prior to review of allegation by Department of Education. Requires certain information relating to target of bullying, harassment, intimidation, and cyberbullying. Makes measure operative July 1, 2017. Takes effect July 1, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Existing process for data collection related to bullying; portions of data collected as part of federal civil rights legislation
- Existing requirement under law that school districts have plan to deal with bullying, et. al.
- Examples of specific instances of schools with plans in place that failed to adhere to plan
- Cost of lawsuits, other legal actions brought by parents and students as a result of having no other recourse when school district allegedly fails to adhere to plan to address bullying, et. al.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Current law deals with “hostile education environments” and prohibits bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation. School districts are required to have processes for individuals to report instances of bullying, et. al., and to report this information to the Department of Education and the community. House Bill 4024 directs the State Board of Education (Board) to adopt, by rule, a complaint process by which individuals are able to report a district policy that is allegedly in violation of state law prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying. The measure also requires the Board to: adopt rules related to evaluation and reporting processes for these allegations; allow district to respond to allegations; and, require certain demographic information about the alleged target of bullying, et. al., be collected.