ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 238-ASSEMBLYMAN CARRILLO

MARCH 5, 2019

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing bullying and cyber-bullying of pupils. (BDR 34-105)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring regular monitoring to ensure compliance with certain requirements relating to follow-up after a reported incident of bullying or cyberbullying; providing for a mental health screening of a reported aggressor and reported victim in an incident of bullying or cyber-bullying; requiring the electronic publication of a report concerning reported incidents of bullying and cyber-bullying; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the administrator of a public school or his or her designee to investigate any report of bullying or cyber-bullying. (NRS 388.1351) If such an investigation confirms the report of bullying or cyber-bullying, this bill requires the administrator or his or her designee to: (1) request the consent of the parent or guardian of the reported aggressor and the reported victim to conduct a mental health screening for each; and (2) if such consent is granted, ensure that such a mental health screening is conducted.

Not later than 10 days after receiving a report of bullying or cyber-bullying, existing law requires the administrator or his or her designee to conduct follow-up meetings with the reported aggressor and the reported victim. (NRS 388.1351) This bill requires the administrator or his or her designee to document each such meeting. In addition, the board of trustees of a school district or governing body of a charter school, as applicable, is required to conduct regular monitoring to ensure that the administrator or his or her designee is conducting and documenting such meetings.





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Existing law requires quarterly reporting by the direct supervisor of the principal of a school to the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment of the Department of Education of the number of: (1) reports of bullying or cyberbullying; (2) the number of times bullying or cyber-bullying is found to have occurred; and (3) the number of times bullying or cyber-bullying is found not to have occurred. (NRS 388.1351) This bill requires the Office to electronically publish a quarterly report of such information for each public school and school district in this State.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 388.1351 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.1351 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 388.13535, a teacher, administrator, coach or other staff member who witnesses a violation of NRS 388.135 or receives information that a violation of NRS 388.135 has occurred shall report the violation to the administrator or his or her designee as soon as practicable, but not later than a time during the same day on which the teacher, administrator, coach or other staff member witnessed the violation or received information regarding the occurrence of a violation.

- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, upon receiving a report required by subsection 1, the administrator or designee shall immediately take any necessary action to stop the bullying or cyber-bullying and ensure the safety and well-being of the reported victim or victims of the bullying or cyber-bullying and shall begin an investigation into the report. If the administrator or designee does not have access to the reported victim of the alleged violation of NRS 388.135, the administrator or designee may wait until the next school day when he or she has such access to take the action required by this subsection.
- 3. The investigation conducted pursuant to subsection 2 must include, without limitation:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, notification provided by telephone, electronic mail or other electronic means or provided in person, of the parents or guardians of all pupils directly involved in the reported bullying or cyber-bullying, as applicable, either as a reported aggressor or a reported victim of the bullying or cyber-bullying. The notification must be provided:
- (1) If the bullying or cyber-bullying is reported before the end of school hours on a school day, before the school's administrative office closes on the day on which the bullying or cyber-bullying is reported; or





- (2) If the bullying or cyber-bullying was reported on a day that is not a school day, or after school hours on a school day, before the school's administrative office closes on the school day following the day on which the bullying or cyber-bullying is reported.
- (b) Interviews with all pupils whose parents or guardians must be notified pursuant to paragraph (a) and with all such parents and guardians.
- 4. If the contact information for the parent or guardian of a pupil in the records of the school is not correct, a good faith effort to notify the parent or guardian shall be deemed sufficient to meet the requirement for notification pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3.
- 5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an investigation required by this section must be completed not later than 2 school days after the administrator or designee receives a report required by subsection 1. If extenuating circumstances prevent the administrator or designee from completing the investigation required by this section within 2 school days after making a good faith effort, 1 additional school day may be used to complete the investigation.
- 6. An administrator or designee who conducts an investigation required by this section shall complete a written report of the findings and conclusions of the investigation. If a violation is found to have occurred, the report must include recommendations concerning the imposition of disciplinary action or other measures to be imposed as a result of the violation, in accordance with the policy governing disciplinary action adopted by the governing body. Subject to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, the report must be made available, not later than 24 hours after the completion of the written report, to all parents or guardians who must be notified pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3 as part of the investigation.
- 7. If a violation is found not to have occurred, information concerning the incident must not be included in the record of the reported aggressor.
- 8. Not later than 10 school days after receiving a report required by subsection 1, the administrator or designee shall meet with each reported victim of the bullying or cyber-bullying to inquire about the well-being of the reported victim and to ensure that the reported bullying or cyber-bullying, as applicable, is not continuing. The administrator or designee shall maintain documentation of each such meeting.





9. A governing body shall conduct regular monitoring to ensure that the administrator or designee of each school is

complying with the requirements of subsection 8.

10. To the extent that information is available, the administrator or his or her designee shall provide a list of any resources that may be available in the community to assist a pupil to each parent or guardian of a pupil to whom notice was provided pursuant to this section as soon as practicable. Such a list may include, without limitation, resources available at no charge or at a reduced cost and may be provided in person or by electronic or regular mail. If such a list is provided, the administrator, his or her designee, or any employee of the school or the school district is not responsible for providing such resources to the pupil or ensuring the pupil receives such resources.

[10.] 11. The parent or guardian of a pupil involved in the reported violation of NRS 388.135 may appeal a disciplinary decision of the administrator or his or her designee, made against the pupil as a result of the violation, in accordance with the policy governing disciplinary action adopted by the governing body. Not later than 30 days after receiving a response provided in accordance with such a policy, the parent or guardian may submit a complaint to the Department. The Department shall consider and respond to the complaint pursuant to procedures and standards prescribed in regulations adopted by the Department.

[11.] 12. If a violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred [. the]:

- (a) The parent or guardian of a pupil who is a victim of bullying or cyber-bullying may request that the board of trustees of the school district in which the pupil is enrolled to assign the pupil to a different school in the school district. Upon receiving such a request, the board of trustees shall, in consultation with the parent or guardian of the pupil, assign the pupil to a different school.
- (b) The administrator or designee shall request consent of a parent or guardian of the reported aggressor and the reported victim to allow a mental health screening to be conducted for each of them. Upon receipt of such consent, the administrator or designee shall ensure that a mental health screening of the reported aggressor or victim, as applicable, is conducted.
- [12.] 13. A principal or his or her designee shall submit a monthly report to the direct supervisor of the principal that includes for the school the number of:
 - (a) Reports received pursuant to subsection 1;
- (b) Times in which a violation of NRS 388.135, *including*, *without limitation*, *a violation involving cyber-bullying*, is found to have occurred: and





- (c) Times in which no violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred.
 - [13.] 14. A direct supervisor who receives a monthly report pursuant to subsection [12] 13 shall, each calendar quarter, submit a report to the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment that includes, for the schools for which the direct supervisor has received a monthly report in the calendar quarter, the:
 - (a) Total number of reports received pursuant to subsection 1;
 - (b) Number of times in which a violation of NRS 388.135, *including, without limitation, a violation involving cyber-bullying*, is found to have occurred; and
- (c) Number of times in which no violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred.
- [14.] 15. The Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment shall publish on an Internet website maintained by the Office a report for each calendar quarter that includes, for each public school and school district in this State the information received pursuant to subsection 14.
- 16. School hours and school days are determined for the purposes of this section by the schedule established by the governing body for the school.
- **Sec. 2.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.
 - **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.





