

By Senator Sobel

31-01650-09

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to corporal punishment; amending s.
3 1002.20, F.S.; requiring that a district school board
4 review its policy allowing corporal punishment once
5 every 3 years during a district school board meeting;
6 requiring that the district school board take public
7 testimony during such meeting; providing for the
8 expiration of the district school board's corporal
9 punishment policy if such meeting is not held;
10 providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section
15 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public
17 school students must receive accurate and timely information
18 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
19 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
20 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
21 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

22 (4) DISCIPLINE.—

23 (c) *Corporal punishment*.—In accordance with ~~the provisions~~
24 of s. 1003.32, corporal punishment of a public school student
25 may only be administered by a teacher or school principal within
26 guidelines of the school principal and according to district
27 school board policy. Another adult must be present and must be
28 informed in the student's presence of the reason for the
29 punishment. Upon request, the teacher or school principal must

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30 provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for
31 the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.
32 A district school board that has a policy allowing the use of
33 corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall review its
34 policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a
35 district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The
36 district school board must take public testimony at the board
37 meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with
38 this paragraph, the portion of the district school board's
39 policy which allows corporal punishment shall expire.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.