

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking
 3 Awareness Week in the public schools; creating s.
 4 1003.4206, F.S.; requiring each district school board
 5 to provide cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness
 6 instruction in K-12 public schools during the
 7 beginning of the school year; providing for
 8 designation of "Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking
 9 Awareness Week"; defining the terms "cyberbullying"
 10 and "cyberstalking"; providing for the integration of
 11 cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness instruction
 12 into existing curriculum; providing goals for such
 13 instruction; providing an effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes, is created
 18 to read:

19 1003.4206 Cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness
 20 instruction.-

21 (1) Each district school board shall provide cyberbullying
 22 and cyberstalking awareness instruction in all K-12 public
 23 schools in the district during the third week in September each
 24 year. The district school board shall designate the week as
 25 "Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking Awareness Week."

26 (2) For purposes of this section, the term:

27 (a) "Cyberbullying" means the transmission of any
 28 electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication with

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29 the malicious or willful intent to threaten, torment, abuse, or
30 intimidate an individual.

31 (b) "Cyberstalking" means engaging in a course of conduct
32 to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images,
33 or language by or through the use of electronic mail or
34 electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing
35 substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no
36 legitimate purpose.

37 (3) During Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking Awareness Week,
38 students shall be provided intensive instruction to expand their
39 knowledge, understanding, and awareness of cyberbullying and
40 cyberstalking and the consequences of such actions. The
41 instruction shall be integrated into the existing school
42 curriculum in ways including, but not limited to, supplementing
43 lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or providing other
44 school-related activities. The instruction shall be delivered by
45 qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable guest speakers.

46 (4) The goals of cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness
47 instruction include:

48 (a) Increased attention to identifying and preventing
49 cyberbullying and cyberstalking.

50 (b) Awareness of the serious consequences of cyberbullying
51 or cyberstalking, including, but not limited to, the substantial
52 emotional distress that cyberbullying or cyberstalking may cause
53 and the civil and criminal penalties for incidents of
54 cyberstalking.

55 (c) Ways in which to respond to cyberbullying or
56 cyberstalking, including reporting incidents of cyberbullying or

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57 cyberstalking to school officials.

58 (d) Awareness that incidents of cyberbullying or
59 cyberstalking which occur in school often continue to occur
60 after school hours.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.