

By Senator Montford

6-01311A-12

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

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

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15           Section 1. Section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes, is created  
16 to read:

17           1003.4206 Cyberbullying awareness instruction.-

18           (1) Each district school board may provide cyberbullying  
19 awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools in the district  
20 during the third week in September each year. The district  
21 school board shall designate the week as "Cyberbullying  
22 Awareness Week."

23           (2) (a) During this 1-week period, students may be provided  
24 intensive instruction to expand their knowledge, understanding,  
25 and awareness of cyberbullying. For purposes of this section,  
26 the term "cyberbullying" means the transmission of any  
27 electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication with  
28 the malicious or willful intent to threaten, torment, abuse, or  
29 intimidate an individual.

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30       (b) The instruction may be integrated into the existing  
31 school curriculum in ways including, but not limited to,  
32 supplementing lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or  
33 providing other school-related activities. The instruction shall  
34 be delivered by qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable  
35 guest speakers.

36       (3) The goals of cyberbullying awareness instruction  
37 include:

38       (a) Increased attention to identifying and preventing  
39 cyberbullying.

40       (b) Awareness of the serious consequences of cyberbullying,  
41 including, but not limited to, the emotional pain or discomfort  
42 that cyberbullying may cause.

43       (c) Ways in which to respond to cyberbullying, including  
44 reporting incidents of cyberbullying to school officials.

45       (d) Awareness that incidents of cyberbullying which occur  
46 in school often continue to occur after school hours.

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