

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to zero-tolerance policies; amending  
3 s. 1006.13, F.S.; revising the intent of the  
4 Legislature to require schools to use alternatives to  
5 expulsion or referral to law enforcement agencies  
6 except in the case of a threat to school safety;  
7 requiring each district school board to adopt rules  
8 requiring that a student found to have committed  
9 certain offenses be placed in an alternative school  
10 setting or other program, when appropriate; conforming  
11 provisions; providing an effective date.  
12

13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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15 Section 1. Subsections (1), (5), and (8) of section  
16 1006.13, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17 1006.13 Policy of zero tolerance for crime and  
18 victimization.—

19 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote a safe  
20 and supportive learning environment in schools, to protect  
21 students and staff from conduct that poses a serious threat to  
22 school safety, and to require ~~encourage~~ schools to use  
23 alternatives to expulsion or referral to law enforcement  
24 agencies, except when there is a threat to school safety, by  
25 addressing disruptive behavior through restitution, civil  
26 citation, teen court, neighborhood restorative justice, or

27 similar programs. The Legislature finds that zero-tolerance  
28 policies are not intended to be rigorously applied to petty acts  
29 of misconduct and misdemeanors, including, but not limited to,  
30 minor fights or disturbances. The Legislature finds that zero-  
31 tolerance policies must apply equally to all students regardless  
32 of their economic status, race, or disability.

33 (5) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of law~~, each  
34 district school board shall adopt rules requiring ~~providing~~ that  
35 a any student found to have committed an any offense in s.  
36 784.081 ~~784.081(1), (2), or (3)~~ shall be ~~expelled or~~ placed in  
37 an alternative school setting or other program, when as  
38 appropriate. Upon being charged with the offense, the student  
39 shall be removed from the classroom immediately and placed in an  
40 alternative school setting pending disposition.

41 (8) Except as provided in subsection (3), school districts  
42 shall ~~are encouraged to~~ use alternatives to expulsion or  
43 referral to law enforcement agencies unless the use of such  
44 alternatives will pose a threat to school safety.

45 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.