

CS/HB 7043

2015

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to standard student attire; providing
3 a short title; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.; authorizing
4 district school boards to adopt a standard student
5 attire policy; establishing criteria for and the
6 purpose of the policy; providing immunity from civil
7 liability for district school boards that implement a
8 standard student attire policy under certain
9 conditions; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; creating a safe
10 schools allocation to provide funding to school
11 districts for certain safe schools activities;
12 providing for the withholding of a district's safe
13 schools funding for failure to comply with certain
14 reporting requirements with respect to school safety
15 and student discipline; creating s. 1011.78, F.S.;
16 providing for incentive payments to school districts
17 that implement standard student attire policies;
18 providing eligibility for and the amount of the
19 incentive payments; providing for annual reversion of
20 undisbursed funds; providing an appropriation;
21 providing an effective date.

22
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24
25 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Students Attired
26 for Education (SAFE) Act."

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

hb7043-01-c1

27 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 28 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school
 30 board.—The district school board may exercise the following
 31 supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or
 32 State Board of Education rule.

33 (1) STUDENT MANAGEMENT.—The district school board may
 34 adopt programs and policies to ensure the safety and welfare of
 35 individuals, the student body, and school personnel, which
 36 programs and policies may:

37 (b) Require that the attire ~~uniforms~~ to be worn by the
 38 student body conform to a standard student attire policy that
 39 prohibits certain types or styles of clothing and requires solid
 40 colored clothing and fabrics for pants, skirts, shorts, or
 41 similar clothing and short or long sleeved shirts with collars.
 42 The policy may authorize a small logo but may not authorize a
 43 motto or slogan. The purpose of a standard student attire policy
 44 is to provide a safe environment that fosters learning and
 45 improves school safety and discipline by:

46 1. Encouraging students to express their individuality
 47 through personality and academic achievements, rather than
 48 outward appearance.

49 2. Enabling students to focus on academics, rather than
 50 fashion, because they are able to project a neat, serious, and
 51 studious image.

52 3. Minimizing disciplinary problems because students are

53 not distracted by clothing.

54 4. Reducing the time needed to correct dress code
55 violations through a readily available inventory of compliant
56 attire.

57 5. Minimizing visible differences and eliminating social
58 pressures to wear brand name clothing or "gang colors," thereby
59 easing financial pressures on parents and enhancing school
60 safety.

61 6. Creating a sense of school pride and belonging.

62
63 A district school board may implement a standard student attire
64 policy as part of an overall program to foster and promote
65 desirable school operating conditions and a safe and supportive
66 educational environment. A standard student attire policy must
67 allow a parent to opt his or her student out of the policy for
68 religious purposes or by reason of a disability. A district
69 school board that implements a districtwide standard student
70 attire policy for all students in at least kindergarten through
71 eighth grade is immune from civil liability resulting from
72 adoption of the policy in accordance with this paragraph, ~~or~~
73 ~~impose other dress-related requirements, if the district school~~
74 ~~board finds that those requirements are necessary for the safety~~
75 ~~or welfare of the student body or school personnel. However,~~
76 Students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun-protective wear
77 while outdoors during school hours, such as when students are at
78 recess.

79 Section 3. Subsection (16) is added to section 1011.62,
80 Florida Statutes, to read:

81 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
82 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
83 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
84 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
85 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
86 follows:

87 (16) SAFE SCHOOLS ALLOCATION.—A safe schools allocation is
88 created to provide funding for allowable safe schools
89 activities. Each school district shall receive a minimum safe
90 schools allocation in an amount provided in the General
91 Appropriations Act. Of the remaining funds provided in the
92 General Appropriations Act for safe schools activities, two-
93 thirds shall be allocated among the school districts based on
94 each district's proportionate share of Total Index Crime for
95 Florida by county reported by the Department of Law Enforcement
96 in its most recent Uniform Crime Reports offense data and one-
97 third shall be allocated based on each district's proportionate
98 share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent
99 student enrollment. Allowable safe schools activities shall be
100 provided in the General Appropriations Act. The department shall
101 monitor compliance with the reporting procedures of ss. 1006.09
102 and 1006.147. If a district does not comply with the reporting
103 procedures, the district's funds from the safe schools
104 allocation shall be withheld and reallocated to other school

105 districts. Each school district shall report to the Department
106 of Education the amount of funds expended for each of the
107 allowable safe schools activities.

108 Section 4. Section 1011.78, Florida Statutes, is created
109 to read:

110 1011.78 Standard student attire school district incentive
111 payments.—There is created an incentive payment for school
112 districts that implement a districtwide standard student attire
113 policy in accordance with s. 1001.43(1)(b). Qualified school
114 districts shall receive an award of \$10 per student in
115 kindergarten through grade 8. Before the release of funds, and
116 no later than September 1 of each year, the district school
117 superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner of Education
118 that the district school board has implemented a districtwide
119 standard student attire policy in accordance with s.
120 1001.43(1)(b). The commissioner shall make payment of awards to
121 school districts in the order in which certifications from the
122 district school superintendents are received. As of June 30 of
123 each year, any funds provided pursuant to this section that have
124 not been disbursed to qualified school districts shall revert to
125 the fund from which they were appropriated pursuant to s.
126 216.301.

127 Section 5. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$10
128 million in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
129 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for the purpose of
130 implementing s. 1011.78, Florida Statutes, as created by this

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131 | act.

132 | Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.