

By Senator Book

32-00444-22

2022390__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to restraint of students with
3 disabilities in public schools; amending s. 1003.573,
4 F.S.; prohibiting school personnel from using
5 mechanical restraint on students with disabilities;
6 providing exceptions; conforming provisions to changes
7 made by the act; providing an effective date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1003.573, Florida
12 Statutes, is amended to read:

13 1003.573 Seclusion and restraint of students with
14 disabilities in public schools.—

15 (3) RESTRAINT.—

16 (a) School personnel may not use mechanical restraint. This
17 paragraph does not apply to school resource officers, school
18 safety officers, school guardians, or school security guards as
19 described in s. 1006.12, who may use mechanical restraint in the
20 exercise of their powers and duties to restrict students in
21 grades 6 through 12.

22 (b) Authorized school personnel may use physical restraint
23 only when all positive behavior interventions and supports have
24 been exhausted. Physical restraint may be used only when there
25 is an imminent risk of serious injury and must ~~shall~~ be
26 discontinued as soon as the threat posed by the dangerous
27 behavior has dissipated. ~~Techniques or devices such as~~
28 ~~straightjackets, zip ties, handcuffs, or tie downs may not be~~
29 ~~used in ways that may obstruct or restrict breathing or blood~~

32-00444-22

2022390__

30 ~~flow or that place a student in a facedown position with the~~
31 ~~student's hands restrained behind the student's back. Physical~~
32 restraint techniques may not be used to inflict pain to induce
33 compliance.

34 (c) ~~(b)~~ Notwithstanding the authority provided in s.
35 1003.32, physical restraint may ~~shall~~ be used only to protect
36 the safety of students, school personnel, or others and may not
37 be used for student discipline or to correct student
38 noncompliance.

39 (d) ~~(e)~~ The degree of force applied during physical
40 restraint must be only that degree of force necessary to protect
41 the student or others from imminent risk of serious injury.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.