Intended by DeBoer, 10.

Read first time January 13, 2020

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-2,137, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions regarding bullying prevention and education; to provide duties; and to repeal the original section.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Section 79-2,137, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

79-2,137 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:

(a) Bullying disrupts a school's ability to educate students; and

(b) Bullying threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which such behavior can escalate into violence.

(2) For purposes of this section, bullying means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

(3) Each school district as defined in section 79-101 shall develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying prevention and education for all students. On and after August 1, 2020, the policy shall, in age-appropriate terms, include, but not be limited to:

(a) A clear statement that the school district prohibits harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyberbullying on school grounds, in any vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at any school-sponsored activity or school-sponsored athletic event;

(b) A clear definition of bullying consistent with this section;

(c) A procedure for reporting any act of bullying, including, but not limited to, (i) the manner for reporting any act of bullying, (ii) the means by which such reports may be made anonymously or in a manner that protects victims or witnesses of bullying, and (iii) the school officials, designated by job title, who are responsible for receiving such reports;

(d) A procedure for prompt investigation of a report of an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, (i) the school officials, designated by job title, who are responsible for investigating such
reports and (ii) a timeline for the investigative process that ensures a
prompt and thorough investigation;

(e) A procedure to request (i) a school district review of the
response of a school in such district to a report of an act of bullying
or (ii) an appeal of the results of an investigation of a report of an
act of bullying;

(f) A procedure to ensure that the parents or guardians of any
student involved in any investigation are promptly notified of the report
of an act of bullying and the investigation; and

(g) A prohibition against reprisal or retaliation by any student or
employee of the school district against any person who reports an act of
bullying, provides information during an investigation of an act of
bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about an act of
bullying.

(4) Each school district shall make the policy required under
subsection (3) of this section available to all parents, guardians,
school employees, and students in a student or employee handbook, which
shall be available at each school office or school district office and on
the school or school district web site in languages which are most
prevalent among the students and parents or guardians.

(5) The school district shall annually review the policy
required under subsection (3) of this section annually.

Sec. 2. Original section 79-2,137, Reissue Revised Statutes of
Nebraska, is repealed.