

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 630

Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso

February 16, 2011

An act to add Article 1.4 (commencing with Section 32204) to Chapter 2 of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to pupil safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 630, as amended, Hueso. Pupil safety: bullying.

Existing law establishes the School Safety and Violence Prevention Act, a statewide program administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, pursuant to which funds are allocated to school districts serving pupils in any of grades 8 to 12, inclusive, for the purpose of promoting school safety and reducing schoolsite violence, including, but not limited to, providing conflict resolution personnel, providing on-campus communication devices, establishing staff training programs, and establishing cooperative arrangements with law enforcement agencies.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to encourage school districts, *at their discretion*, to establish programs, to be integrated ~~either~~ into the regular curriculum ~~or through separate instruction~~ during National Bullying Prevention Month *and throughout the year*, ~~at the discretion of each school district~~, to reduce bullying through training with appropriate activities and best practice

methodologies involving collaboration among pupils, ~~parents,~~ and school staff.

The bill would declare the intent of the Legislature that the training encouraged by the bill should help pupils identify different forms of bullying behavior, and should create a school environment where pupils know that reports of bullying will be properly handled and that the confidentiality of their statements will be respected. The bill would also express the intent of the Legislature that training include school administrators and teachers, ~~parents, pupils, and anyone else who is in frequent contact with children,~~ and cultivate positive behaviors that can create a bully-free learning community in each school.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 1.4 (commencing with Section 32204) is
2 added to Chapter 2 of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

4

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Article 1.4. Bullying

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7 32204. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage school
8 districts, *at their discretion*, to establish programs to be integrated
9 ~~either into the regular curriculum or through separate instruction~~
10 during National Bullying Prevention Month *and throughout the*
11 *year* for a minimum of one class period each day, or a minimum
12 of five ~~hours, at the discretion of each school district~~ *hours per*
13 *month*, to reduce bullying through training with appropriate
14 activities and best practice methodologies involving collaboration
15 among pupils, ~~parents,~~ and school staff, in accordance with all of
16 the following:

17 (a) Training should educate pupils to increase their awareness
18 of bullying ~~and to create a school environment that empowers~~
19 ~~parents, school staff and administration, and pupils as well as~~ to
20 prevent and manage bullying at their schools. This training should
21 have three main goals:

22 (1) To help pupils identify different forms of bullying behavior,
23 which include physical, verbal, psychological, and electronic
24 bullying.

1 (2) To create a school environment where pupils know that
2 reports of bullying will be properly handled, so that pupils who
3 are either targets of bullying or bystanders will freely report
4 incidents of bullying when it is necessary.

5 (3) To build trust so that pupils will feel that the confidentiality
6 of statements they intend to keep private will be respected.

7 (b) Training should include school administrators and teachers;
8 ~~parents, and pupils, and anyone else who is in frequent contact~~
9 ~~with children.~~ The training should promote awareness of bullying,
10 as well as kindness, communication, cooperation, and friendship
11 while stressing empathy for all pupils. Each school district may
12 develop a training curriculum that fits its specific needs.

13 (c) Training should essentially foster key educational building
14 blocks to build a positive school climate, address and prevent
15 bullying behavior in California schools, create an awareness and
16 encourage discussion of the bullying problem as a school
17 community, and cultivate the positive behaviors that can create a
18 bully-free learning community in each school.