



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Senate Bill 310

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

Memo published: November 10, 2005

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Senate Bill 310 relates to school policies on bullying.

Senate Bill 310

Senate Bill 310 directs the Department of the Public Instruction (DPI) to develop a model school policy on bullying. The legislation requires certain items to be included in that model policy. The bill also directs each school board to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying, allowing the school board to adopt DPI's model policy or draft one of their own. The bill also requires that the policy be distributed to all pupils enrolled in the school districts and to their parents. In addition, upon the occurrence of a bullying incident, the school board is directed to distribute the policy to all pupils involved in the incident and to their parents.

Finally, the bill added Wednesday of the 4th week in September, Bullying Awareness Day, to the list of special observance days for schools.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

The Senate substitute amendment makes the following changes in the original bill:

1. Clarifies that the legislation is focused on bullying by pupils.
2. Rewords the elements that must be included in the model school policy on bullying.
3. Provides that upon the occurrence of a bullying incident, the school board is not required to distribute a policy to each pupil involved in the incident and to his or her parent, if the pupil was involved in a bullying incident during the current semester and the pupil and his or her parent or guardian received a copy of the policy at that time.

4. The original legislation required the model code to include a procedure for reporting bullying that allowed reports to be made *anonymously*. The substitute amendment requires the procedure to allow reports to be made *confidentially*.
5. Requires the model policy to include a list of the disciplinary alternatives for pupils that engage in bullying or who retaliate against a pupil who reports an incidence of bullying.

Legislative History

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Senators Kedzie and Coggs on September 14, 2005. The Senate Education Committee recommended passage of Senate Bill 310, as amended by Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on November 8, 2005 on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 1. The Senate passed the bill as amended on November 9, 2005 on a voice vote.

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