

HB 273 -- Cyberbullying

Sponsor: Allen

This bill specifies that "cyberbullying" as it relates to the antibullying policy that school districts are required to adopt is the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. Each district's policy must require, at a minimum, a statement that prohibits bullying, a procedure for reporting bullying and investigating the reported incidents, a description of the ways a school will respond to confirmed incidents, a prohibition on reprisals, a statement of how the policy will be publicized, and a process for discussing the policy with those affected. The policy must be conspicuously posted throughout the school, and the district must annually provide information and any appropriate training to school staff. The district must implement these programs in a way that does not stigmatize the victim and must make resources or referrals available to victims of bullying. Violence prevention and character development education programs may be implemented. The bullying policy must be reviewed annually for compliance with state and federal law.