

HB 2232 -- BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Allen

This bill changes the laws regarding bullying in schools. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Adds substantial interference with the educational process or disruption of school operations to the definition of bullying;
- (2) Prohibits bullying on school property, at any school function, and on a school bus. "Cyberbullying" is transmitting a bullying communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device;
- (3) Requires a school district's antibullying policy to include:
  - (a) A statement prohibiting bullying;
  - (b) A statement requiring district employees to report any instance of bullying of which they have first-hand knowledge or reasonable cause to believe occurred;
  - (c) A procedure for the reporting and prompt investigation of reports;
  - (d) A description of the ways in which a school will respond once an incident of bullying is confirmed;
  - (e) A statement prohibiting reprisal or retaliation against a person reporting an act of bullying and the consequence and action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation; and
  - (f) A statement of how the policy will be publicized and a process for discussing the policy with students and training employees and volunteers in the requirements of the policy.