

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 707
Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 6/7/11
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/13/12

Short Title: School Violence Prevention Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 20, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT OF 2012 AND TO
3 LIMIT PRAYERS FOR JUDGMENT CONTINUED.

4 Whereas, the General Assembly of North Carolina finds that a safe and civil
5 environment in school is necessary in order for students to learn and achieve high academic
6 standards; and

7 Whereas, bullying and harassment, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, disrupt
8 both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe
9 environment; and

10 Whereas, bullying and harassing behaviors create a climate that fosters violence in
11 our schools; and

12 Whereas, it is essential to enact a law that seeks to protect the health and welfare of
13 North Carolina students and improve the learning environment for North Carolina students; and

14 Whereas, to do so, State and national data and anecdotal evidence have established
15 the need to identify the most vulnerable targets and potential victims of bullying and
16 harassment; and

17 Whereas, the sole purpose of this law is to protect all children from bullying and
18 harassment, and no other legislative purpose is intended nor should any other intent be
19 construed from passage of this law; Now, therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-33 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

22 "(c1) No school personnel as defined in G.S. 14-33(c)(6) who takes reasonable actions in
23 good faith to end a fight or altercation between students shall incur any civil or criminal
24 liability as the result of those actions."

25 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-453(7c) reads as rewritten:

26 "(7c) "Profile" means (i) a configuration of user data required by a computer so
27 that the user may access programs or services and have the desired
28 functionality on that ~~computer~~-computer or (ii) a Web site user's personal
29 page or section of a page made up of data, in text or graphical form, which
30 displays significant, unique, or identifying information, including, but not
31 limited to, listing acquaintances, interests, associations, activities, or
32 personal statements."

33 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 14-458.1(a) reads as rewritten:

34 "(a) Except as otherwise made unlawful by this Article, it shall be unlawful for any
35 person to use a computer or computer network to do any of the following:



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- 1 ...
- 2 (3) ~~Plant~~ Make any statement, whether true or false, ~~tending~~ intending to
- 3 immediately provoke, provoke or and that actually provokes ~~that is likely to~~
- 4 provoke, any third party to stalk or harass a minor.
- 5 (4) Copy and disseminate, or cause to be made, an unauthorized copy of any
- 6 data pertaining to a minor for the purpose of intimidating or tormenting that
- 7 minor (in any form, including, but not limited to, any printed or electronic
- 8 form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing
- 9 in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network).
- 10 (5) Sign up a minor for a pornographic Internet ~~site~~ site with the intent to
- 11 intimidate or torment the minor.
- 12 (6) Without authorization of the minor or the minor's parent or guardian, sign up
- 13 a minor for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages
- 14 and instant messages, with the intent to intimidate or torment the minor.
- 15 ~~resulting in intimidation or torment of the minor."~~

16 **SECTION 4.** Article 60 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by

17 adding a new section to read:

18 **"§ 14-458.2. Cyber-bullying of school employee by student; penalty.**

19 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

20 (1) School employee. – The term means any of the following:

21 a. An employee of a local board of education, a charter school

22 authorized under G.S. 115C-238.29D, a regional school created

23 under G.S. 115C-238.62, or a nonpublic school which has filed intent

24 to operate under Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the

25 General Statutes.

26 b. An independent contractor or an employee of an independent

27 contractor of a local board of education, a charter school authorized

28 under G.S. 115C-238.29D, a regional school created under

29 G.S. 115C-238.62, or a nonpublic school which has filed intent to

30 operate under Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the

31 General Statutes, if the independent contractor carries out duties

32 customarily performed by employees of the school.

33 (2) Student. – A person who has been assigned to a school by a local board of

34 education as provided in G.S. 115C-366 or has enrolled in a charter school

35 authorized under G.S. 115C-238.29D, a regional school created under

36 G.S. 115C-238.62, or a nonpublic school which has filed intent to operate

37 under Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes,

38 or a person who has been suspended or expelled from any of those schools

39 within the last year.

40 (b) Except as otherwise made unlawful by this Article, it shall be unlawful for any

41 student to use a computer or computer network to do any of the following:

42 (1) With the intent to intimidate or torment a school employee, do any of the

43 following:

44 a. Build a fake profile or Web site.

45 b. Post or encourage others to post on the Internet private, personal, or

46 sexual information pertaining to a school employee.

47 c. Post a real or doctored image of the school employee on the Internet.

48 d. Access, alter, or erase any computer network, computer data,

49 computer program, or computer software, including breaking into a

50 password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing

51 passwords.

- 1 e. Use a computer system for repeated, continuing, or sustained
2 electronic communications, including electronic mail or other
3 transmissions, to a school employee.
- 4 (2) Make any statement, whether true or false, intending to immediately
5 provoke, and that is likely to provoke, any third party to stalk or harass a
6 school employee.
- 7 (3) Copy and disseminate, or cause to be made, an unauthorized copy of any
8 data pertaining to a school employee for the purpose of intimidating or
9 tormenting that school employee (in any form, including, but not limited to,
10 any printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or
11 computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer
12 or computer network).
- 13 (4) Sign up a school employee for a pornographic Internet site with the intent to
14 intimidate or torment the employee.
- 15 (5) Without authorization of the school employee, sign up a school employee for
16 electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant
17 messages, with the intent to intimidate or torment the school employee.
- 18 (c) Any student who violates this section is guilty of cyber-bullying a school employee,
19 which offense is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- 20 (d) Whenever any student pleads guilty to or is guilty of an offense under this section,
21 the court may, without entering a judgment of guilt and with the consent of the student, defer
22 further proceedings and place the student on probation upon such reasonable terms and
23 conditions as the court may require. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the
24 probation provided for in this subsection, the court shall discharge the student and dismiss the
25 proceedings against the student. Discharge and dismissal under this subsection shall be without
26 court adjudication of guilt and shall not be deemed a conviction for purposes of this section or
27 for purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law upon conviction of a crime.
28 Upon discharge and dismissal pursuant to this subsection, the student may apply for an order to
29 expunge the complete record of the proceedings resulting in the dismissal and discharge,
30 pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth in G.S. 15A-146.
- 31 (e) Whenever a complaint is received pursuant to Article 17 of Chapter 7B of the
32 General Statutes based upon a student's violation of this section, the juvenile may, upon a
33 finding of legal sufficiency pursuant to G.S. 7B-1706, enter into a diversion contract pursuant
34 to G.S. 7B-1706."

35 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 15A-301 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

36 "(b1) School Personnel. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no warrant for
37 arrest, order for arrest, criminal summons, or other criminal process shall be issued against a
38 school employee, as defined in G.S. 14-33(c)(6), for a misdemeanor offense that occurred
39 while the school employee was in the process of discharging his or her duties of employment,
40 other than by a magistrate who has been specifically appointed by the chief district court judge
41 to review such allegations. This subsection does not apply if the offense is a traffic offense or if
42 the offense occurred in the presence of a sworn law enforcement officer."

43 **SECTION 6.** Article 5 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
44 adding a new section to read:

45 "**§ 115C-46.2. Probation officer visits at school; limitations.**

46 (a) Except as provided in this section, probation officers are not authorized to visit
47 students during school hours on school property.

48 (b) Probation officers of the Division of Community Corrections, when working as a
49 part of the Division's School Partnership Program, may visit students during school hours on
50 school property with prior authorization by school administrators. For purposes of this section,

1 "authorization" includes requests for assistance from guidance counselors or school resource
2 officers.

3 (c) Each local board of education shall develop policies and guidelines for coordinating
4 with probation officers of the Division of Community Corrections in the planning and
5 scheduling of school visits as provided in this section, utilizing existing administrative capacity
6 to manage scheduling. Visits shall be conducted in a private area designated for such use and
7 located away from contact with the general student population. The probation officer shall not
8 initiate direct contact with a student while the student is in class or between classes. Initial
9 contact with the student shall be made by a school administrator or other designated school
10 employee, who shall direct the student to a private area to meet with the probation officer."

11 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 115C-288(g) reads as rewritten:

12 "(g) To Report Certain Acts to Law Enforcement and the Superintendent. – When the
13 principal has personal ~~knowledge, a reasonable belief, knowledge~~ or actual notice from school
14 personnel that an act has occurred on school property involving assault resulting in serious
15 personal injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping, indecent liberties with a
16 minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law,
17 possession of a weapon in violation of the law, or possession of a controlled substance in
18 violation of the law, the principal shall immediately report the act to the appropriate local law
19 enforcement agency.

20 ~~A principal who willfully fails to make a report to law enforcement required by this~~
21 ~~subsection may be subject to demotion or dismissal pursuant to G.S. 115C 325.~~

22 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education shall not require
23 the principal to report to law enforcement acts in addition to those required to be reported by
24 ~~this subsection law.~~

25 For purposes of this subsection, "school property" shall include any public school building,
26 bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, or athletic field, in the charge of the
27 principal.

28 The principal or the principal's designee shall notify the superintendent or the
29 superintendent's designee in writing or by electronic mail regarding any report made to law
30 enforcement under this subsection. This notification shall occur by the end of the workday in
31 which the incident occurred when reasonably possible but not later than the end of the
32 following workday. The superintendent shall provide the information to the local board of
33 education.

34 Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to interfere with the due process rights of
35 school employees or the privacy rights of students."

36 **SECTION 8.** Article 19 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
37 adding a new section to read:

38 **"§ 115C-289.1. Supervisor duty to report; intimidation of school employee.**

39 (a) When a supervisor of a school employee has actual notice that the school employee
40 has been the victim of an assault by a student in violation of G.S. 14-33(c)(6) resulting in
41 physical injury, as that term is defined in G.S. 14-34.7, the supervisor shall immediately report
42 to the principal the assault against the school employee. For the purpose of this subsection, the
43 term "supervisor of a school employee" does not include the principal or superintendent.

44 (b) A principal, superintendent, or supervisor of a school employee shall not, by threats
45 or in any other manner, intimidate or attempt to intimidate that school employee from reporting
46 to law enforcement an assault by a student under G.S. 14-33(c)(6).

47 (c) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to interfere with the due process rights of
48 school employees or the privacy rights of students."

49 **SECTION 9.** Article 25 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
50 adding a new section to read:

51 **"§ 115C-366.4. Assignment of students convicted of cyber-bullying.**

1 A student who is convicted under G.S. 14-458.2 of cyber-bullying a school employee shall
2 be transferred to another school within the local school administrative unit. If there is no other
3 appropriate school within the local school administrative unit, the student shall be transferred to
4 a different class or assigned to a teacher who was not involved as a victim of the
5 cyber-bullying. Notwithstanding the provisions in this section, the superintendent may modify,
6 in writing, the required transfer of an individual student on a case-by-case basis."

7 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 115C-390.3 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(d) No school employee shall be reprimanded or dismissed for acting or failing to act to
9 stop or intervene in an altercation between students if the employee's actions are consistent with
10 local board policies. Local boards of education shall adopt policies, pursuant to their authority
11 under G.S. 115C-47(18), which provide guidelines for an employee's response if the employee
12 has personal knowledge or actual notice of an altercation between students."

13 **SECTION 11.** Article 81 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by
14 adding a new section to read:

15 **"§ 15A-1331B. Prayer for judgment continued for a period of time that exceeds 12**
16 **months is an improper disposition of a Class B1, B2, C, D, or E felony.**

17 The court shall not dispose of any criminal action that is a Class B1, B2, C, D, or E felony
18 by ordering a prayer for judgment continued that exceeds 12 months. If the court orders a
19 prayer for judgment continued in any criminal action that is a Class B1, B2, C, D, or E felony,
20 the court shall include as a condition that the State shall pray judgment within a specific period
21 of time not to exceed 12 months. At the time the State prays judgment, or 12 months from the
22 date of the prayer for judgment continued order, whichever is earlier, the court shall enter a
23 final judgment unless the court finds that it is in the interest of justice to continue the order for
24 prayer for judgment continued. If the court continues the order for prayer for judgment
25 continued, the order shall be continued for a specific period of time not to exceed 12 months.
26 The court shall not continue a prayer for judgment continued order for more than one additional
27 12-month period."

28 **SECTION 12.** Section 5 is effective on and after the date that a magistrate is
29 appointed by the chief district court judge to perform the function set forth in that section.
30 Sections 3, 4, and 11 of this act become effective December 1, 2012, and apply to offenses
31 committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.
32 Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 apply beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.