

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 205
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/23/21

Short Title: Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 4, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH
3 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, INCLUDING
4 SEXUAL ABUSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(47) Duty regarding abuse and neglect. – The State Board of Education, in
8 consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall adopt a policy
9 to be implemented by each public secondary school, as defined in
10 G.S. 115C-105.51, to provide students in grades six through 12 with
11 information on child abuse and neglect, including age-appropriate information
12 on sexual abuse. This policy shall apply at public secondary schools under the
13 control of the State Board of Education, including schools operated under
14 Article 9C of this Chapter. Information shall be provided in the form of (i) a
15 document provided to all students at the beginning of each school year and (ii)
16 a display posted in visible, high-traffic areas throughout each public secondary
17 school. The document and display shall include, at a minimum, the following
18 information:

- 19 a. Likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of abuse
20 or neglect, including age-appropriate information on sexual abuse.
21 b. The telephone number used for reporting abuse and neglect to the
22 department of social services in the county in which the school is
23 located, in accordance with G.S. 7B-301.
24 c. A statement that information reported pursuant to sub-subdivision
25 (47)b. of this section shall be held in the strictest confidence, to the
26 extent permitted by law, pursuant to G.S. 7B-302(a1).
27 d. Available resources developed pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.51,
28 including the anonymous safety tip line application."

29 **SECTION 1.5.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

30 "(65) To Provide Information About Child Abuse and Neglect. – Local boards of
31 education shall implement the policy addressing student awareness of child
32 abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, adopted by the State Board of
33 Education under G.S. 115C-47."

34 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:



1 "(e2) Abuse and Neglect Policy. – A charter school shall implement the policy addressing
2 student awareness of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, adopted by the State Board
3 of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47)."

4 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

5 "(7f) Abuse and neglect policy. – A regional school shall implement the policy
6 addressing student awareness of child abuse and neglect, including sexual
7 abuse, adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47)."

8 **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(19) A laboratory school shall implement the policy addressing student awareness
10 of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, adopted by the State Board
11 of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47) for all public secondary schools under
12 the control of the Board of Governors."

13 **SECTION 2.(d)** Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 is amended by adding a new
14 sub-subdivision to read:

15 "p. G.S. 115C-47(65) [To Provide Information About Child Abuse and
16 Neglect]."

17 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
18 the 2021-2022 school year.