

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking  
 3 Awareness Week in the public schools; creating s.  
 4 1003.4206, F.S.; requiring each district school board  
 5 to provide cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness  
 6 instruction in K-12 public schools during the  
 7 beginning of the school year; providing for  
 8 designation of "Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking  
 9 Awareness Week"; defining the terms "cyberbullying"  
 10 and "cyberstalking"; providing for the integration of  
 11 cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness instruction  
 12 into existing curriculum; providing goals for such  
 13 instruction; providing an effective date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 1003.4206, Florida Statutes, is created  
 18 to read:

19 1003.4206 Cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness  
 20 instruction.-

21 (1) Each district school board shall provide cyberbullying  
 22 and cyberstalking awareness instruction in all K-12 public  
 23 schools in the district during the third week in September each  
 24 year. The district school board shall designate the week as  
 25 "Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking Awareness Week."

26 (2) For purposes of this section, the term:

27 (a) "Cyberbullying" means the transmission of any  
 28 electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication with

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29 the malicious or willful intent to threaten, torment, abuse, or  
30 intimidate an individual.

31 (b) "Cyberstalking" means engaging in a course of conduct  
32 to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images,  
33 or language by or through the use of electronic mail or  
34 electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing  
35 substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no  
36 legitimate purpose.

37 (3) During Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking Awareness Week,  
38 students shall be provided intensive instruction to expand their  
39 knowledge, understanding, and awareness of cyberbullying and  
40 cyberstalking and the consequences of such actions. The  
41 instruction shall be integrated into the existing school  
42 curriculum in ways including, but not limited to, supplementing  
43 lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or providing other  
44 school-related activities. The instruction shall be delivered by  
45 qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable guest speakers.

46 (4) The goals of cyberbullying and cyberstalking awareness  
47 instruction include:

48 (a) Increased attention to identifying and preventing  
49 cyberbullying and cyberstalking.

50 (b) Awareness of the serious consequences of cyberbullying  
51 or cyberstalking, including, but not limited to, the substantial  
52 emotional distress that cyberbullying or cyberstalking may cause  
53 and the civil and criminal penalties for incidents of  
54 cyberstalking.

55 (c) Ways in which to respond to cyberbullying or  
56 cyberstalking, including reporting incidents of cyberbullying or

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57 cyberstalking to school officials.

58 (d) Awareness that incidents of cyberbullying or  
59 cyberstalking which occur in school often continue to occur  
60 after school hours.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.