

Last week the consensus bill on bullying, HB 1942 by Rep. Diane Patrick, was voted favorably from House Public Ed Committee 10-1. Only Rep. Weber of Pearland voted against the bill.

Here's what it does:

Encourages staff development in dealing with incidents of bullying; allows for the transfer of the bully to another classroom on the campus or to another campus by decision of the board of trustees; adds Health TEKS that include evidence-based practices that will effectively address awareness, prevention, identification, and resolution and intervention in bullying and harassment; defines bullying, adding "expression through electronic means" and further defining that bullying: is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

Requires ISD to adopt a policy concerning bullying that prohibits bullying, the retaliation against a person - victim, witness, or other, who provides information; establish a procedure for providing notice to parents, and establishes the actions a student should take to obtain assistance and intervention, lists available counseling and establishes procedures for reporting and investigating an incident of bullying;

Policy must be included in employee handbook, district improvement plan, and posted on district website.