



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1237

LR 614(10)

## An Act To Prohibit Bullying and Cyberbullying in Schools

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:  
C "B" (H-745)  
S "A" (S-598) to C "B" (H-745)  
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs**

### Fiscal Note

State Mandate - Exempted

#### State Mandates

##### Required Activity

Requires school boards, when amending its policies and procedures that address bullying, to include the following:

- ~ procedures for students, school staff, parents, guardians and others to report incidents of bullying including anonymous reporting of bullying;
- ~ procedures for prompt investigating and responding to incidents of bullying including written documentation of reported incidents and the outcome of the investigation;
- ~ procedure for appealing a decision to take or not take disciplinary action;
- ~ procedure to remediate any substantiated incident of bullying;
- ~ process to communicate measures being taken to ensure the safety of the targeted student and to prevent further acts of bullying.

Requires the annual dissemination of the written policy to students, parents, guardians, volunteers, administrators, teachers and school staff; posting of policy on the school administrative unit's publicly accessible website; and inclusion of the policy, in detail, to the student handbook.

Requires superintendent to address every substantiated incident of bullying.

Requires local school administrative units to provide professional development and staff training in the best approaches to implementing the anti-bullying policy.

Pursuant to the Mandate Preamble, the two-thirds vote of all members elected to each House exempts the state from the constitutional requirement to fund 90% of the additional costs.

##### Unit Affected

School

##### Local Cost

Significant statewide

**Fiscal Detail and Notes**

Additional costs to the Department of Education to create a model policy on bullying, harassment and sexual harrassment by January 1, 2013 and to create a procedure under which material incidents of discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, cyberbullying and bullying are reported to the department can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.