

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 880
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Author:	Sen. Bullard
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Bill Analysis

SB 880 creates the Students' Bill of Rights providing for certain rights to be afforded to students attending a public school district or public charter school, including the right to a safe learning environment; the right to an unbiased education; the right to an unbiased learning environment; the right to privacy in his or her person and clothing; the right to public and free expression of religion, speech, and peaceable assembly; the right to an education free from indoctrination; the right to an appropriate relationship with teachers and school employees; the right to be free from the use of vulgar language; and the right to a learning environment in which students abide by a dress code, if one has been adopted. It requires the rights to be included in student and employee handbooks. The bill requires school district boards of education and charter school governing boards to create a due process plan for students, parents or legal guardians, and teachers to report violations of rights. It allows a parent or legal guardian to submit a written request for an initial investigation or additional investigation into a reported violation if it is signed by parents and legal guardians of 33% of the students enrolled in the school site where the reported violation occurred. The measure requires confirmed reports of violations to be submitted to the State Department of Education. It authorizes the State Board of Education to report a school as deficient on an accreditation report for noncompliance. It also allows a penalty equal to a 5% decrease in state funding for the following fiscal year for noncompliance or if a district or charter school submits two or more confirmed violations and the Board receives information that the violations have not been addressed. It creates a cause of action for noncompliance. The bill also amends language related to Safe School Committees, directing that they hear appeals of findings on reported violations of students' rights.

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