

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | HB 1388 |
| Version: | FULLPCS1 |
| Request Number: | 13066 |
| Author: | Rep. Hasenbeck |
| Date: | 3/4/2025 |
| Impact: | No Impact |

Research Analysis

The proposed committee substitute for HB 1388 requires the State Department of Education to implement multiple measures for strengthening internet safety in schools.

The SDE is required to develop a character education program for grades K-12 that school districts must implement. The measure lists character traits to be taught, which includes the discouragement of bullying, responsible digital citizenship, and safe and appropriate use of social media.

The SDE is required to develop model programs for educating students about online safety. The programs must be periodically updated and program information must be published on the SDE's website.

School boards are required to adopt policies that prohibit school equipment from being used to view, send, or receive obscene material. School Boards must provide reasonable opportunities for parents to collaborate with school administrators and teachers regarding appropriate Internet access for such students. School boards must submit their policies to the SDE and include any technology protection measures they have in place. The SDE can require modifications to boards' policies if they deem necessary. The measure lists penalties for school boards that don't have acceptable policies and safety measures in place.

School boards are also required to adopt social media policies, which are also subject to review by the SDE. School Boards must also adopt policies that prohibit bullying and cyberbullying.

The SDE is required to establish technology protection standards that allow, to the extent practicable, for parental controls of school-issued technology. The Department may identify a nonexclusive list of providers of technology protection measures that meet or exceed such standards.

The SDE is required to develop training to help school staff implement their policies. The Department must also compile resources for anti-bullying training programs.

Lastly, the measure provides regulations for social media platforms and authorizes the Attorney General to enforce the provisions of the act.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

The measure as currently written is not anticipated to result in a negative fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Cole Stout, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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