

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB2017</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>11671</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Pae</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/21/2025</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>AOC: Budget Neutral</b> <b>DOC: Minimal</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 2017 includes within the definition of bullying the use of online platforms. The measure provides a definition of "severe emotional distress". The measure modifies the penalties for bullying through the use of telecommunication or online platform by establishing a fine not to exceed \$500, imprisonment in the county jail for up to 1 year or both for a first offense. A second offense is punishable as a felony with a fine not to exceed \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 2 years or both. Third and subsequent offenses are a felony punishable by a fine not less than \$5,000, imprisonment for up to 10 years or both. The measure modifies school bullying policies by requiring the policy to address bullying by electronic communication if the communication is disruptive or interferes with the school's education mission or the education of any student. The measure requires the school policy to have a process for school employees, volunteers or parents to report an act of bullying to school officials or law enforcement. A school employee, school volunteer, a student, or the parent or legal guardian of a student who promptly reports in good faith an incident of bullying to a school official and who makes the report is immune from a cause of action for damages arising out of the reporting itself or any failure to remedy the reported incident of bullying. The policy must contain a process to notify the parent of a victim within 24 hours of receipt of the report of bullying. If a student expresses suicidal thoughts or intentions or encourages another student to commit suicide, the parents or legal guardians of the student is to be notified immediately. The measure requires the district school board to hold public hearings prior to adoption of school bullying policy.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

**Fiscal Analysis**

HB2017 modifies statutory provisions related to bullying offenses to include certain activities on online platforms. Depending on the offense, the penalties for such offenses range from fines up to \$5000, imprisonment up to 2 years, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any resulting change to the revenues collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) or change in the costs incurred by the Department of Corrections (DOC) are expected to be immaterial and/or absorbed by the agencies. Therefore, this measure in its current form is anticipated to be budget neutral.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.

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