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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7388**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 538

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 11, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Bullying prevention.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Wyss

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Models and Incentives:* This bill amends the definition of "bullying" to specify that the term includes verbal or written communications transmitted in any manner, including digitally or electronically. It requires the Department of Education to evaluate and make available to school corporations effective models of bullying prevention plans and to provide an appropriate incentive to school corporations with policies that encourage student participation in extracurricular activities designed to prevent bullying.

*Reporting:* The bill requires a school corporation to publish the number of bullying incidents that have occurred in the school corporation's annual performance report.

*Discipline Rules:* It also requires school corporation discipline rules to include written reports of bullying incidents and responses to the incidents, and annual reports of the number of bullying incidents and responses to the department of education.

*Discipline and Safety Plan:* The bill requires a school corporation's discipline and safety plan that is developed with parental assistance to address bullying prevention and response.

*Continuing Education:* The bill provides that the advisory board of the division of professional standards may adopt rules that set standards for teacher and administrator continuing education in the prevention of and response to bullying.

*Audits:* The bill provides that the Department of Education may audit compliance with bullying prevention, intervention, and reporting requirements at any time.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary:* The bill's requirements should be able to be implemented within existing resources. The Department of Education (DOE) has a fairly extensive array of resources on bullying available on its website. Included are links to other government and non-government organizations that focus on bullying.

*Models and Incentives:* The bill requires the DOE to evaluate and make available to school corporations effective models of bullying prevention plans, and to design innovative policies that encourage students to participate in classroom and extracurricular activities designed to prevent bullying.

*Continuing Education:* Under the bill, the advisory board of the division of professional standards may adopt rules that set standards for teacher and administrator continuing education in the prevention of and response to bullying.

*Audits:* The bill provides that the DOE may audit compliance with bullying prevention, intervention, and reporting requirements at any time.

### **Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary:* School corporations should be able to implement the bill's requirements within existing resources.

*Reporting:* School corporations must include the number of bullying incidents in their annual performance report.

*Discipline Rules:* Under current law, the discipline rules adopted by school corporations must include provisions for reporting and investigating incidents of bullying, informing parents of incidents, and educating students. Under this bill, the rules would also require the school's staff to submit written reports of any bullying incident they witness, and notify parents and meet with them if necessary. The superintendent would also submit to the DOE an annual report detailing the number and types of bullying incidents occurring in the school corporation and what action was taken in response to the incidents.

*Discipline and Safety Plan:* Current law requires a school corporation to collaborate with parents in developing a plan for improving student behavior. This bill specifies that the plan should also include ways to prevent bullying and to respond to incidents of bullying.

### **Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, State Advisory Board of the Division of Professional Standards.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School Corporations.

**Information Sources:** Dept of Education website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/sservices/bullying/index.html>

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