

Subject Bullying  
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### Overview

This bill amends the school student bullying policy statute (Minn. Stat. § 121A.031) by requiring districts and schools to provide annual certifications, prohibiting retaliation against school employees, and establishing civil penalties.

Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.031 was enacted in 2014 as part of the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act (Laws 2014, chapter 160). The Act requires public schools to have a comprehensive student bullying policy, and defines “bullying” and other terms. Bullying policies must have specific components; districts and schools can develop their own policies or adopt a model policy developed by the commissioners of education and human rights. The law does not apply to home school and nonpublic school students, unless the students voluntarily participate in public school activities.

### Summary

| Section | Description  |
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| 1       | <b>Local policy components. [School student bullying policy]</b><br>Requires districts and schools to annually certify to the commissioner of education that: (1) the bullying prevention policy has been discussed with students, school personnel, and volunteers; and (2) the district is following a three-year training cycle for all school personnel that includes the bullying prevention policy. Allows the commissioner to reduce state aid for failure to implement the requirements of the school student bullying policy statute. |
| 2       | <b>Retaliation prohibited. [School student bullying policy]</b><br>Prohibits an employer from retaliating against a school employee for making a complaint under the school student bullying policy statute or under the district or school bullying policy required under the statute.  |

| Section | Description   |
|---------|---|
| 3       | <b>Civil penalty. [School student bullying policy]</b><br>Establishes a civil penalty of \$5,000 for failure to comply with the school student bullying policy statute. |



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