

Subject Student safety

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Overview

This bill modifies provisions relating to teacher licensure when a teacher is charged with certain crimes, requires law enforcement to notify a licensing board when a teacher is charged with certain crimes, requires the Department of Education to develop training for mandatory reporters, clarifies that alleged maltreatment may be investigated even if it occurred more than three years before a maltreatment report, establishes an offense of grooming, and makes other changes.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Field trips.
Prohibits a school employee, independent contractor, or volunteer from being alone with a student during a field trip. |
| 2 | Grounds for revocation, suspension, or denial. [Suspension or revocation of licenses]
Adds grooming to the list of offenses that, if a teacher is convicted of, automatically trigger a license denial, refusal to renew, or revocation without a right to a hearing. |
| 3 | Mandatory reporting. [Suspension or revocation of licenses]
Requires a police department or county sheriff to notify the appropriate licensing board when a teacher is criminally charged with an offense that triggers automatic license denial, refusal to renew, or revocation without a right to a hearing, or with any other offense that requires the person to register as a predatory offender. |
| 4 | Training for reporters; Department of Education.
Requires the commissioner of education to develop training for mandatory reporters, with content specifically applicable to reporters engaged in education, and make the training available online or in person. Requires expert input, and further specifies |

Section	Description
	required content on reporting maltreatment allegations involving students ages 18 through 21 and a training module on grooming and threatened sexual abuse.
5	Screening guidelines. Adds paragraph (c) to prohibit the commissioner of children, youth, and families' screening guidelines from limiting an agency's ability to screen in and investigate a report of alleged maltreatment that occurred more than three years prior to the report.
6	General duties. Adds paragraph (j) to clarify that a local welfare agency or law enforcement agency may investigate alleged maltreatment that occurred more than three years prior to the maltreatment report.
7	Immediate investigation for alleged maltreatment in facility. Adds paragraph (d) to clarify that an agency responsible for screening and investigating alleged maltreatment in a facility may investigate alleged maltreatment that occurred more than three years prior to the maltreatment report.
8	Definitions. Defines the term "pattern" as "two or more instances of conduct" for purposes of section 609.352 (Solicitation of Children to Engage in Sexual Conduct; Communication of Sexually Explicit Materials to Children). "Pattern" is a term used in the proposed grooming offense in section 9.
9	Grooming. Establishes a separate offense of grooming a child under the age of 16. Imposes a felony penalty for a person 18 years of age or older who knowingly engages in a <u>pattern of conduct</u> that seduces, solicits, lures, or entices, or attempts to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, a child to engage or participate in unlawful sexual conduct that is for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the victim, the accused, or another individual. The existing offenses in section 609.352 prohibit in-person (subdivision 2) and electronic solicitation (subdivision 2a) of a child to engage in sexual conduct. The proposed grooming offense attempts to criminalize behavior that may not meet the definition of "solicit" in section 609.352 and would apply to both in-person and electronic grooming.
10	School violations. Creates a separate offense for school employees and contractors who solicit or groom a student. This offense covers children up to the age of 18.

Section	Description
11	Penalty. Subjects a person found guilty of grooming to incarceration for up to 5 years and a fine of not more than \$10,000.



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