

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to a Board of Education*
3 *model policy for the prohibition of bullying, harassment, and intimidation.*

4 [H 1624]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 22.1-279.6 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 § 22.1-279.6. Board of Education guidelines and model policies for codes of student conduct; school
9 board regulations.

10 A. The Board of Education shall establish guidelines and develop model policies for codes of student
11 conduct to aid local school boards in the implementation of such policies. The guidelines and model
12 policies shall include, but not be limited to, (i) criteria for the removal of a student from a class, the use
13 of suspension, expulsion, and exclusion as disciplinary measures, the grounds for suspension and
14 expulsion and exclusion, and the procedures to be followed in such cases, including proceedings for
15 such suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions and all applicable appeals processes; (ii) standards,
16 consistent with state, federal and case laws, for school board policies on alcohol and drugs, gang-related
17 activity, hazing, vandalism, trespassing, threats, search and seizure, disciplining of students with
18 disabilities, intentional injury of others, self-defense, bullying, *the use of electronic means for purposes*
19 *of bullying, harassment, and intimidation*, and dissemination of such policies to students, their parents,
20 and school personnel; and (iii) standards for in-service training of school personnel in and examples of
21 the appropriate management of student conduct and student offenses in violation of school board
22 policies.

23 In accordance with the most recent enunciation of constitutional principles by the Supreme Court of
24 the United States of America, the Board's standards for school board policies on alcohol and drugs and
25 search and seizure shall include guidance for procedures relating to voluntary and mandatory drug
26 testing in schools, including, but not limited to, which groups may be tested, use of test results,
27 confidentiality of test information, privacy considerations, consent to the testing, need to know, and
28 release of the test results to the appropriate school authority.

29 In the case of suspension and expulsion, the procedures set forth in this article shall be the minimum
30 procedures that the school board may prescribe.

31 B. School boards shall adopt and revise, as required by § 22.1-253.13:7 and in accordance with the
32 requirements of this section, regulations on codes of student conduct that are consistent with, but may be
33 more stringent than, the guidelines of the Board. School boards shall include, in the regulations on codes
34 of student conduct, procedures for suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions and shall biennially
35 review the model student conduct code to incorporate discipline options and alternatives to preserve a
36 safe, nondisruptive environment for effective teaching and learning.

37 Each school board shall include, in its code of student conduct, prohibitions against bullying, hazing,
38 and profane or obscene language or conduct. School boards shall also cite, in their codes of student
39 conduct, the provisions of § 18.2-56, which defines and prohibits hazing and imposes a Class 1
40 misdemeanor penalty for violations, i.e., confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of
41 not more than \$2,500, either or both.

42 A school board may regulate the use or possession of beepers or other portable communications
43 devices and laser pointers by students on school property or attending school functions or activities and
44 establish disciplinary procedures pursuant to this article to which students violating such regulations will
45 be subject.

46 Nothing herein shall be construed to require any school board to adopt policies requiring or
47 encouraging any drug testing in schools. However, a school board may, in its discretion, require or
48 encourage drug testing in accordance with the Board of Education's guidelines and model student
49 conduct policies required by subsection A and the Board's guidelines for student searches required by
50 § 22.1-279.7.

51 C. The Board of Education shall establish standards to ensure compliance with the federal Improving
52 America's Schools Act of 1994 (Part F-Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994), as amended, in accordance with
53 § 22.1-277.07.

54 This subsection shall not be construed to diminish the authority of the Board of Education or to
55 diminish the Governor's authority to coordinate and provide policy direction on official communications
56 between the Commonwealth and the United States government.