

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB504EH1

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Dance

3. Committee: House Committee on Education

4. Title: Virginia Center for School Safety; anti-bullying training.

5. Summary: Requires the Virginia Center for School Safety (VCSS) to provide training on anti-bullying tactics to public school personnel.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, the Virginia Center for School Safety offers a wide range of training courses and information on school and campus safety issues. Some of the existing training courses that have an anti-bullying component are:

- *School Safety Audit*
- *Virginia School Safety Training Forum*
- *School Resource Officer / School Security Officer Basic Trainings*
- *Virginia Rules Trainings*
- *FERPA: Information Sharing*
- *Beyond the Basics: Expanding Your Rights and Power Within the School Zone*
- *Violence Prevention and Safety in Schools – Law and Policy*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has proposed 10 “best practices” in bully prevention and intervention efforts. (*Stop Bullying Now, 2011*)

1) **Focus on the social environment of the school.** (Social norms at the school must be changed so that bullying is no longer an acceptable activity. This climate change requires the involvement of not only students, but staff and administrators.)

2) **Assess bullying at the school.** (Climate surveys can help assess the nature of the bullying problem, assist in tailoring a school-specific prevention approach, and allow for data to track prevention and intervention progress.)

3) **Garner staff and parent support for bullying intervention.** (As discussed above, bullying prevention requires support and reinforcement from all those in students’ lives to be effective.)

- 4) **Form a group to coordinate the school's bully prevention efforts.** (This group should collect and maintain data and design and implement bully prevention efforts.)
- 5) **Train your staff in bullying prevention.** (All adults who interact with students should be trained.)
- 6) **Establish and enforce school rules related to bullying.** (Clear, straightforward expectations should be developed and made easily visible.)
- 7) **Increase adult supervision in bullying "hot spots."** (Increase adult presence in areas where bullying occurs most frequently.)
- 8) **Intervene consistently and appropriately in bullying situations.** (Staff should be trained to intervene on the spot when bullying occurs.)
- 9) **Focus some class time on bullying prevention.** (Aim for 20-30 minutes every other week.)
- 10) **Continue these efforts over time.**

It is anticipated the Virginia Center for School Safety can incorporate aspects of these nationally recognized evidence based practices into its existing anti-bullying training using existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: Same as SB271

Date: February 3, 2012

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c: Secretary of Public Safety