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SENATE BILL NO. 852

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 6, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public schools; corporal punishment; exception.

Patrons—Carrico (By Request) and Petersen

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-279.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-279.1. Corporal punishment prohibited.

A. No teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the Commonwealth shall subject a student to corporal punishment. This prohibition of corporal punishment shall not be deemed to prevent (i) the use of incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control; (ii) the use of reasonable and necessary force to quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance which threatens physical injury to persons or damage to property; (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary force to prevent a student from inflicting physical harm on himself; (iv) the use of reasonable and necessary force for self-defense or the defense of others; or (v) the use of reasonable and necessary force to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects or controlled substances or paraphernalia which are upon the person of the student or within his control.

B. In determining whether a person was acting within the exceptions provided in this section, due deference shall be given to reasonable judgments at the time of the event ~~which~~ *that* were made by a teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the Commonwealth.

C. For the purposes of this section, "corporal punishment" means the infliction of, or causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student as a means of discipline.

This definition shall not include physical pain, injury or discomfort caused by the use of incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control as permitted in ~~subdivision clause~~ (i) of subsection A ~~of this section~~ or the use of reasonable and necessary force as permitted by ~~subdivisions clauses~~ (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) of subsection A ~~of this section~~, or by participation in practice or competition in an interscholastic sport, or participation in physical education or an extracurricular activity.

D. *Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections A, B, and C, an athletic coach may require a student-athlete to participate in conditioning or exercise, such as performing push-ups or running laps, as part of a disciplinary process if the student-athlete and his parent have signed a form that (i) enumerates actions, such as being late to or missing a practice, that would result in discipline involving conditioning or exercise; (ii) specifies the required conditioning or exercise for each action that would result in discipline; and (iii) acknowledges that the student-athlete and his parent understand and accept the disciplinary process.*

INTRODUCED

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