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20101457D

HOUSE BILL NO. 109

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled December 13, 2019

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-277 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and secondary school students; suspension and expulsion; sufficient cause.

Patrons—Cole, J.G. and Samirah

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-277 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-277. Suspensions and expulsions of students generally.

A. Students may be suspended or expelled from attendance at school for sufficient cause; however, in no ~~cases may~~ *case shall* sufficient cause for ~~suspensions~~ *suspension or expulsion* include only instances of truancy *or nonviolent behavior*.

B. Except as provided in subsection C or § 22.1-277.07 or 22.1-277.08, no student in preschool through grade three shall be suspended for more than three school days or expelled from attendance at school, unless (i) the offense involves physical harm or credible threat of physical harm to others or (ii) the local school board or the division superintendent or his designee finds that aggravating circumstances exist, as defined by the Department.

C. Any student for whom the division superintendent of the school division in which such student is enrolled has received a report pursuant to § 16.1-305.1 of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of § 16.1-260 may be suspended or expelled from school attendance pursuant to this article.

D. The authority provided in § 22.1-276.2 for teachers to remove students from their classes in certain instances of disruptive behavior shall not be interpreted to affect the operation of § 22.1-277.04, 22.1-277.05, or 22.1-277.06.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 22.1-277.08, no school board shall be required to suspend or expel any student who holds a valid written certification for the use of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil issued by a practitioner in accordance with subsection B of § 54.1-3408.3 for the possession or use of such oil in accordance with the student's individualized health plan and in compliance with a policy adopted by the school board.

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