

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

*As Engrossed: H3/14/03*

# A Bill

Act 681 of 2003  
HOUSE BILL 2274

5 By: Representatives House, Weaver, Green, Elliott, Bolin, P. Bookout, Oglesby, Seawel, L. Prater,  
6 Hutchinson, Mack, Fite, Chesterfield, Dickinson, Dangeau, Boyd, Blair, Rankin, Parks, Hathorn, Moore,  
7 Sumpter, *J. Johnson*  
8 By: Senators J. Jeffress, Wilkins, J. Bookout, Wooldridge, Baker, G. Jeffress, Faris, Bryles  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

12 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADOPT ANTI-  
13 BULLYING POLICIES; TO REQUIRE THE POLICIES TO BE  
14 FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

18 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO  
19 ADOPT ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES; TO REQUIRE  
20 THE POLICIES TO BE FILED WITH THE  
21 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

22  
23  
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25  
26 SECTION 1. (a) The school board of directors in every school district  
27 shall adopt policies to prevent pupil harassment, also known as "bullying".

28 (b) The policies shall:

29 (1) Clearly define conduct that constitutes bullying;

30 (2) Prohibit bullying while on school property, at school  
31 sponsored activities, and on school buses;

32 (3) State the consequences for engaging in the prohibited  
33 conduct, which may vary depending on the age or grade of the student  
34 involved;

35 (4) Require that a school employee who has witnessed, or has  
36 reliable information that, a pupil has been a victim of bullying, as defined



1 by the district, shall report the incident to the principal of the school;

2 (5) Require that notice of what constitutes bullying, that  
3 bullying is prohibited, and the consequences of engaging in bullying be  
4 conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium,  
5 auditorium, and school bus in the district; and

6 (6) Require copies of the notice of what constitutes bullying,  
7 that bullying is prohibited, and the consequences of engaging in bullying be  
8 provided to parents, students, school volunteers, and employees. The  
9 policies shall require that full copies of the policy must be made available  
10 upon request.

11 (c) A school employee who has reported violations under the school  
12 district's policy shall be immune from any tort liability which may arise  
13 from the failure to remedy the reported incident.

14 (d) The local school board may provide opportunities for school  
15 employees to participate in programs or other activities designed to develop  
16 the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to acts covered by this  
17 policy.

18 (e)(1) The school district shall file with the Department of Education  
19 a copy of the policies adopted in compliance with this section.

20 (2) The State Board of Education shall review the policies  
21 provided by the school districts and may recommend changes or improvements to  
22 the districts if the board determines the policies need improvement.

23  
24 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-1005(a)(5), pertaining to student*  
25 *services programs to be provided by school guidance and counseling services,*  
26 *is amended to read as follows:*

27 *(5) Group conflict resolution services, which shall include, but*  
28 *are not limited to, the following:*

29 *(A) Educational and social programs which help students*  
30 *develop skills enabling them to resolve differences and conflicts between*  
31 *groups; and*

32 *(B) Programs designed to promote understanding, positive*  
33 *communication, and a greater utilization of a race relations specialist or*  
34 *human relations specialist to assist in the development of intergroup skills;*  
35 *and*

36 *(C) Programs designed to prevent bullying.*

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*/s/ House, et al*

**APPROVED: 3/26/2003**