

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1805

5 By: Representatives Childress, Hawk  
6 By: Senator K. Hammer  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "BULLYING" WITH  
10 RESPECT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL ANTIBULLYING POLICIES; TO  
11 CREATE A PROCESS WHEREBY A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY CONDUCT  
12 MULTIPLE, SIMULTANEOUS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE SAME  
13 ALLEGATION OF BULLYING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES;  
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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18 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "BULLYING";  
19 AND TO CREATE A PROCESS WHEREBY A PUBLIC  
20 SCHOOL MAY CONDUCT MULTIPLE,  
21 SIMULTANEOUS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE  
22 SAME ALLEGATION OF BULLYING UNDER  
23 CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.  
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-514(b)(2)(A), concerning the  
28 definition of "bullying" as it pertains to school antibullying policies, is  
29 amended to read as follows:

30 (2)(A) "Bullying" means the intentional harassment,  
31 intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of  
32 violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a  
33 written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that ~~may:~~

34 (i) May address an attribute of the other student,  
35 public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public  
36 school employee is associated ~~and that causes or creates actual or reasonably~~



1 ~~foreseeable;~~

2 (ii) Involves an actual or reasonably perceived

3 power imbalance;

4 (iii) Is repeated or has a high likelihood of

5 repetition; and

6 (iv) Causes or creates actual or reasonably

7 foreseeable:

8 ~~(i)(a)~~ Physical harm to a public school  
 9 employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's  
 10 property;

11 ~~(ii)(b)~~ Substantial interference with a  
 12 student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;

13 ~~(iii)(c)~~ A hostile educational environment for  
 14 one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity,  
 15 persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or

16 ~~(iv)(d)~~ Substantial disruption of the orderly  
 17 operation of the public school or educational environment.

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19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-514, concerning school antibullying  
 20 policies, is amended to add additional subsections to read as follows:

21 (m) To prevent multiple, simultaneous investigations into the same  
 22 alleged conduct, if the facts that support an alleged incident of bullying  
 23 under this section may also constitute a violation of another state law or  
 24 rule or federal law or regulation, nothing in this section shall be construed  
 25 to prevent a public school or public school district from investigating and  
 26 disposing of the alleged incident of bullying in accordance with the other  
 27 applicable state law or rule or federal law or regulation in lieu of the  
 28 requirements of this section.

29 (n) A public school or public school district shall complete the  
 30 manner of process or investigation selected by the public school or public  
 31 school district under subsection (m) of this section.

32 (o) This section does not excuse a public school or public school  
 33 district from complying with applicable obligations under federal law or  
 34 regulations or state law or rules.

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