



HOUSE BILL 205: Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | Date: | March 24, 2021 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Davis, White, Hastings, Hurley | Prepared by: | Drupti Chauhan |
| Analysis of: | Second Edition | | Committee Counsel |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 205 would require public schools to provide information and resources on child abuse and neglect to students.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would do the following:

- Require the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt a policy to provide students in grades six through 12 with age-appropriate information on child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse. This information would have to be implemented by each public secondary school, including schools in local school administrative units, schools in the Innovative School District, the residential schools for the visual and hearing impaired, the laboratory schools, charter schools, and regional schools.
- Require that the information be provided in the form of a document given to the students at the beginning of the school year and as a display posted in visible, high-traffic areas throughout the school. Both the document and display must have the following:
 - Warning signs that a child may be the victim of abuse or neglect, including age-appropriate information on sexual abuse.
 - Telephone number of the local department of social services for reporting abuse or neglect.
 - Statement that reported information will be held in strict confidence.
 - Resources available, including anonymous safety tip line application.

Sections 1.5., 2.(a), 2.(b), and 2.(c) would require local boards of education, charter schools, regional schools, and The University of North Carolina laboratory schools to implement the SBE's policy on child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

BACKGROUND: S.L. 2019-245 required employing entities of public schools to adopt and implement a child sexual abuse and sex trafficking training program for school personnel who work directly with students in grades kindergarten through 12. The training program must provide education and awareness training related but not limited to, best practices from the field of prevention, the grooming process of sexual predators, the warning signs of sexual abuse and sex trafficking, how to intervene when sexual abuse or sex trafficking is suspected or disclosed, legal responsibilities for reporting sexual abuse or sex trafficking, and available resources for assistance.

*Jessica Boney, Counsel to the House Families, Children, and Aging Policy Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.

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