Assembly Committee on Education

This measure may be considered for action during today's work session.

ASSEMBLY BILL 465

Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-927)

Sponsored By: Assemblymember Miller

Date Heard: April 1, 2025

Fiscal Notes: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.

Effect on the State: Yes.

Assembly Bill 465 establishes several provisions relating to accountability for instances of harassment in Nevada public schools and higher education institutions. A school district is deemed liable if its agents or employees commit or enable harassment or if the district is notified of such behavior and fails to act. Notification occurs when someone with authority knows, or should reasonably know, about the incident. School districts can avoid liability if they can prove they took reasonable steps to prevent and promptly address harassment. The bill also requires school districts to designate a confidential employee as a safe point of contact for reporting harassment and provides certain duties for such an employee. Additionally, the bill prohibits retaliatory or discriminatory disciplinary actions for persons reporting instances of harassment. Further, the bill extends similar protections and responsibilities as those provided in this bill to institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education, should the Board of Regents adopt such measures.

Amendments:

Assemblymember Miller proposed an amendment for this measure which removes all existing language from the bill and provides that a school district, charter school, or institution of higher education in this State is immune from civil liability if the school district, charter school, or institution of higher education develops, implements, and enforces a comprehensive policy that includes a protocol detailing specific steps to follow in responding to disclosure of harassment by students or staff members. The policy must include:

- Clear procedures to address grievances of a complainant without exposing them to unreasonable risk, effort, or expense;
- A robust plan on delivering supportive measures to complainants within three days, regardless of whether the complainant requests an investigation; and
- Other necessary, prompt, and appropriate corrective action designed to stop the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

Supportive measures may include: (1) adjusting course schedules and providing accommodations for assignments or examinations; (2) complying with no-contact orders; (3) providing school counseling services; (4) adjusting activities or employment;

(5) providing a list of community service providers; (6) preserving eligibility for leadership positions, scholarships, and other education programs or activities, regardless of requirements concerning attendance or grade point averages; (7) excusing recommended absences and employee leaves of absence; or (8) increasing monitoring or supervision at locations or during activities where the harassment is alleged to have occurred.

FINAL Amendment AB 465

REMOVE: All previous sections of the bill

REPLACE: A school district, charter school, or institution of higher education is immune from civil liability if the school district develops, implements, and enforces a comprehensive policy that includes a protocol that details specific steps that will be followed in order to respond to disclosures of harassment by students or staff. The implemented policy required of each must include:

- (a) Clear procedures that are likely to provide a redress of grievances and avoid harm to the complainant without exposing them to unreasonable risk, effort, or expense;
- (b) A robust plan on delivering supportive measures to complainants within 3 days, regardless ifs the complainant requests an investigation; and,
- (c) Other necessary, prompt and appropriate corrective action designed to stop the harassment, prevent its recurrence and remedy its effect

Supportive measures, may include, without limitation:

- (1) Adjusting course schedules, and providing accommodations for assignments or examinations;
- (2) Complying with no-contact orders;
- (3) Providing school counseling services;
- (4) Adjusting activities or employment;
- (5) List of community service providers
- (6) Preserving eligibility for leadership positions, scholarships and other education programs or activities, regardless of requirements concerning attendance or grade point for that semester.
- (7) Excusing recommended absences, and employee leaves of absence; or
- (8) Increasing monitoring or supervision at locations or during activities where the harassment is alleged to have occurred;