

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 396—ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS

MARCH 21, 2019

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to bullying and cyber-bullying in public schools. (BDR 31-615)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; making a child who is a victim of bullying or cyber-bullying in a public school immediately eligible for the establishment of an education savings account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law prohibits certain persons from engaging in bullying or cyber bullying on the premises of a public school, at an activity sponsored by a public school or on a school bus. (NRS 388.135) Existing law requires: (1) any staff member of a public school who witnesses bullying or cyber-bullying to report the bullying or cyber-bullying to the principal or his or her designee; and (2) the principal or designee to investigate the bullying or cyber-bullying. If bullying or cyber-bullying is found to have occurred, the parent or guardian of the pupil who was the victim of the bullying or cyber-bullying is authorized to request the board of trustees of the school district in which the pupil is enrolled to assign the pupil to a different school in the district. (NRS 388.1351) **Section 4** of this bill makes a pupil against whom bullying or cyber-bullying is found to have occurred immediately eligible for the establishment of an education savings account.

Senate Bill No. 302 (S.B. 302) of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature established the education savings account program, pursuant to which grants of money are made to certain parents on behalf of their children to defray the cost of instruction outside the public school system. (Chapter 332, Statutes of Nevada 2015, p. 1824; NRS 353B.700-353B.930) Following a legal challenge of S.B. 302, the Nevada Supreme Court held in *Schwartz v. Lopez*, 132 Nev. Adv. Op. 73, 382 P.3d 886 (2016), that the legislation was valid under Section 2 of Article 11 of the Nevada Constitution, which requires a uniform system of common schools, and under Section 10 of Article 11 of the Nevada Constitution, which prohibits the use of public money for a sectarian purpose. However, the Nevada Supreme Court found that the Legislature did not make an appropriation for the support of the education savings accounts program and held that the use of any money



appropriated for K-12 public education for the education savings accounts program would violate Sections 2 and 6 of Article 11 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court enjoined the enforcement of section 16 of S.B. 302, which amended NRS 387.124 to require that all money deposited in education savings accounts be subtracted from each school district's quarterly apportionments from the State Distributive School Account. In response to the *Schwartz* decision, **section 3** of this bill removes the provisions which were enjoined by the Nevada Supreme Court in *Schwartz*.

Existing law sets forth provisions governing the eligibility requirements to establish an educational savings account on behalf of a child. (NRS 353B.850) Existing law requires the State Treasurer to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the education savings account program. (NRS 353B.820) **Section 2** of this bill deems a pupil who is a victim of bullying or cyber-bullying to have satisfied the eligibility requirements for the establishment of an education savings account as of the date of the violation. **Section 1** of this bill prohibits the imposition of any additional eligibility requirements for the establishment of an education savings account on a pupil who is a victim of bullying or cyber-bullying in regulation.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 353B.820 is hereby amended to read as follows:

353B.820 ~~{The}~~

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the State Treasurer shall adopt any regulations necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of NRS 353B.700 to 353B.930, inclusive.

2. Any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must not impose any additional eligibility requirements for the establishment of an education savings account for a child who is a victim of a violation of NRS 388.135.

Sec. 2. NRS 353B.850 is hereby amended to read as follows:

353B.850 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~{subsection}~~ **subsections 10 and 11**, the parent of any child required by NRS 392.040 to attend a public school who has been enrolled in a public school in this State during the period immediately preceding the establishment of an education savings account pursuant to this section for not less than 100 school days without interruption may establish an education savings account for the child by entering into a written agreement with the State Treasurer, in a manner and on a form provided by the State Treasurer. The agreement must provide that:

(a) The child will receive instruction in this State from a participating entity for the school year for which the agreement applies;



(b) The child will receive a grant, in the form of money deposited pursuant to NRS 353B.860 in the education savings account established for the child pursuant to subsection 2;

(c) The money in the education savings account established for the child must be expended only as authorized by NRS 353B.870; and

(d) The State Treasurer will freeze money in the education savings account during any break in the school year, including any break between school years.

2. If an agreement is entered into pursuant to subsection 1, an education savings account must be established by the parent on behalf of the child. The account must be maintained with a financial management firm qualified by the State Treasurer pursuant to NRS 353B.880.

3. The failure to enter into an agreement pursuant to subsection 1 for any school year for which a child is required by NRS 392.040 to attend a public school does not preclude the parent of the child from entering into an agreement for a subsequent school year.

4. An agreement entered into pursuant to subsection 1 is valid for 1 school year but may be terminated early. If the agreement is terminated early, the child may not receive instruction from a public school in this State until the end of the period for which the last deposit was made into the education savings account pursuant to NRS 353B.860, except to the extent the pupil was allowed to receive instruction from a public school under the agreement.

5. An agreement terminates automatically if the child no longer resides in this State. In such a case, any money remaining in the education savings account of the child reverts to the State General Fund.

6. An agreement may be renewed for any school year for which the child is required by NRS 392.040 to attend a public school. The failure to renew an agreement for any school year does not preclude the parent of the child from renewing the agreement for any subsequent school year.

7. A parent may enter into a separate agreement pursuant to subsection 1 for each child of the parent. Not more than one education savings account may be established for a child.

8. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 10, the State Treasurer shall enter into or renew an agreement pursuant to this section with any parent of a child required by NRS 392.040 to attend a public school who applies to the State Treasurer in the manner provided by the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall make the application available on the Internet website of the State Treasurer.



9. Upon entering into or renewing an agreement pursuant to this section, the State Treasurer shall provide to the parent who enters into or renews the agreement a written explanation of the authorized uses, pursuant to NRS 353B.870, of the money in an education savings account and the responsibilities of the parent and the State Treasurer pursuant to the agreement and NRS 353B.700 to 353B.930, inclusive.

10. A parent may not establish an education savings account for a child who will be homeschooled, who will receive instruction outside this State or who will remain enrolled full-time in a public school, regardless of whether such a child receives instruction from a participating entity. A parent may establish an education savings account for a child who receives a portion of his or her instruction from a public school and a portion of his or her instruction from a participating entity.

11. A child who is a victim of a violation of NRS 388.135 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements for eligibility for the establishment of an education savings account set forth in this section as of the date of the violation.

Sec. 3. NRS 387.124 is hereby amended to read as follows:

387.124 Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 387.1241, 387.1242 and 387.528:

1. On or before August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1 of each year, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apportion the State Distributive School Account in the State General Fund among the several county school districts, charter schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils in amounts approximating one-fourth of their respective yearly apportionments less any amount set aside as a reserve. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 387.1244, the apportionment to a school district, computed on a yearly basis, equals the difference between the basic support and the local funds available pursuant to NRS 387.163, minus all the funds attributable to pupils who reside in the county but attend a charter school, all the funds attributable to pupils who reside in the county and are enrolled full-time or part-time in a program of distance education provided by another school district or a charter school ~~and~~ **and** all the funds attributable to pupils who are enrolled in a university school for profoundly gifted pupils located in the county . ~~and all the funds deposited in education savings accounts established on behalf of children who reside in the county pursuant to NRS 353B.700 to 353B.930, inclusive.~~ No apportionment may be made to a school district if the amount of the local funds exceeds the amount of basic support.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 387.1244, in addition to the apportionments made pursuant to this section, if a pupil is



enrolled part-time in a program of distance education and part-time in a:

(a) Public school other than a charter school, an apportionment must be made to the school district in which the pupil resides. The school district in which the pupil resides shall allocate a percentage of the apportionment to the school district or charter school that provides the program of distance education in the amount set forth in the agreement entered into pursuant to NRS 388.854.

(b) Charter school, an apportionment must be made to the charter school in which the pupil is enrolled. The charter school in which the pupil is enrolled shall allocate a percentage of the apportionment to the school district or charter school that provides the program of distance education in the amount set forth in the agreement entered into pursuant to NRS 388.858.

3. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apportion, on or before August 1 of each year, the money designated as the "Nutrition State Match" pursuant to NRS 387.105 to those school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. The apportionment to a school district must be directly related to the district's reimbursements for the Program as compared with the total amount of reimbursements for all school districts in this State that participate in the Program.

4. If the State Controller finds that such an action is needed to maintain the balance in the State General Fund at a level sufficient to pay the other appropriations from it, the State Controller may pay out the apportionments monthly, each approximately one-twelfth of the yearly apportionment less any amount set aside as a reserve. If such action is needed, the State Controller shall submit a report to the Office of Finance and the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau documenting reasons for the action.

Sec. 4. NRS 388.1351 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.1351 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 388.13535, a teacher, administrator, coach or other staff member who witnesses a violation of NRS 388.135 or receives information that a violation of NRS 388.135 has occurred shall report the violation to the administrator or his or her designee as soon as practicable, but not later than a time during the same day on which the teacher, administrator, coach or other staff member witnessed the violation or received information regarding the occurrence of a violation.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, upon receiving a report required by subsection 1, the administrator or designee shall immediately take any necessary action to stop the bullying or cyber-bullying and ensure the safety and well-being of the reported victim or victims of the bullying or cyber-bullying and



shall begin an investigation into the report. If the administrator or designee does not have access to the reported victim of the alleged violation of NRS 388.135, the administrator or designee may wait until the next school day when he or she has such access to take the action required by this subsection.

3. The investigation conducted pursuant to subsection 2 must include, without limitation:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, notification provided by telephone, electronic mail or other electronic means or provided in person, of the parents or guardians of all pupils directly involved in the reported bullying or cyber-bullying, as applicable, either as a reported aggressor or a reported victim of the bullying or cyber-bullying. The notification must be provided:

(1) If the bullying or cyber-bullying is reported before the end of school hours on a school day, before the school's administrative office closes on the day on which the bullying or cyber-bullying is reported; or

(2) If the bullying or cyber-bullying was reported on a day that is not a school day, or after school hours on a school day, before the school's administrative office closes on the school day following the day on which the bullying or cyber-bullying is reported.

(b) Interviews with all pupils whose parents or guardians must be notified pursuant to paragraph (a) and with all such parents and guardians.

4. If the contact information for the parent or guardian of a pupil in the records of the school is not correct, a good faith effort to notify the parent or guardian shall be deemed sufficient to meet the requirement for notification pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an investigation required by this section must be completed not later than 2 school days after the administrator or designee receives a report required by subsection 1. If extenuating circumstances prevent the administrator or designee from completing the investigation required by this section within 2 school days after making a good faith effort, 1 additional school day may be used to complete the investigation.

6. An administrator or designee who conducts an investigation required by this section shall complete a written report of the findings and conclusions of the investigation. If a violation is found to have occurred, the report must include recommendations concerning the imposition of disciplinary action or other measures to be imposed as a result of the violation, in accordance with the policy governing disciplinary action adopted by the governing body. Subject to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and



Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, the report must be made available, not later than 24 hours after the completion of the written report, to all parents or guardians who must be notified pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3 as part of the investigation.

7. If a violation is found not to have occurred, information concerning the incident must not be included in the record of the reported aggressor.

8. Not later than 10 school days after receiving a report required by subsection 1, the administrator or designee shall meet with each reported victim of the bullying or cyber-bullying to inquire about the well-being of the reported victim and to ensure that the reported bullying or cyber-bullying, as applicable, is not continuing.

9. To the extent that information is available, the administrator or his or her designee shall provide a list of any resources that may be available in the community to assist a pupil to each parent or guardian of a pupil to whom notice was provided pursuant to this section as soon as practicable. Such a list may include, without limitation, resources available at no charge or at a reduced cost and may be provided in person or by electronic or regular mail. If such a list is provided, the administrator, his or her designee, or any employee of the school or the school district is not responsible for providing such resources to the pupil or ensuring the pupil receives such resources.

10. The parent or guardian of a pupil involved in the reported violation of NRS 388.135 may appeal a disciplinary decision of the administrator or his or her designee, made against the pupil as a result of the violation, in accordance with the policy governing disciplinary action adopted by the governing body. Not later than 30 days after receiving a response provided in accordance with such a policy, the parent or guardian may submit a complaint to the Department. The Department shall consider and respond to the complaint pursuant to procedures and standards prescribed in regulations adopted by the Department.

11. If a violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred ~~the~~:

(a) *The* parent or guardian of a pupil who is a victim of bullying or cyber-bullying may request that the board of trustees of the school district in which the pupil is enrolled to assign the pupil to a different school in the school district. Upon receiving such a request, the board of trustees shall, in consultation with the parent or guardian of the pupil, assign the pupil to a different school.

(b) *The pupil is immediately eligible for the establishment of an education savings account pursuant to NRS 353B.850.*



12. A principal or his or her designee shall submit a monthly report to the direct supervisor of the principal that includes for the school the number of:

(a) Reports received pursuant to subsection 1;

(b) Times in which a violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred; and

(c) Times in which no violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred.

13. A direct supervisor who receives a monthly report pursuant to subsection 12 shall, each calendar quarter, submit a report to the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment that includes, for the schools for which the direct supervisor has received a monthly report in the calendar quarter, the:

(a) Total number of reports received pursuant to subsection 1;

(b) Number of times in which a violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred; and

(c) Number of times in which no violation of NRS 388.135 is found to have occurred.

14. School hours and school days are determined for the purposes of this section by the schedule established by the governing body for the school.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

