

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 276

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study bullying by and against students and youth. Bullying is a form of violence among students and youth that is common at schools, at playgrounds, on buses, at extracurricular activities, and in neighborhoods. Current anti-bullying protections fail to adequately address bullying, leaving young persons especially vulnerable to harassment based on characteristics such as race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Society has evolved in such a way that communication technologies provide an unprecedented arsenal of bullying weapons, commonly referred to as cyberbullying. Bullying in and out of educational settings is a pervasive problem that can have negative consequences for the educational climate and for the right of students to learn in a safe environment without fear. Bullying can have negative lifelong consequences, both for students and youth who bully and for their targets.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, defining bullying, including cyberbullying, identifying populations that may be most impacted by bullying, identifying measures for preventing bullying, ascertaining age-appropriate discipline methods or penalties, conducting a thorough review of state and federal policies, and making recommendations for legislation to ensure that students and youth have the opportunity to learn and thrive in safe environments.

The committee may consider input from interested persons including the Nebraska State Bar Association, law enforcement, educators, and other stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.