



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB2786

by Rep. John M. Cabello

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

325 ILCS 5/7.6

from Ch. 23, par. 2057.6

Amends the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Permits school-aged children under the age of 18 to use the statewide toll-free telephone number established under the Act to report alleged incidents of bullying or hazing that occur at their school. Provides that children who report an alleged incident of bullying or hazing to the statewide toll-free telephone number may remain anonymous. Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to provide callers with information on how to handle an alleged incident of bullying or hazing, which may include a list of available resources developed or provided by other federal or State agencies concerning bullying or hazing prevention. Provides that upon receipt of a child's report of bullying or hazing, the Department shall report the incident as soon as possible to the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides or, if the child attends a non-public school, the administrator of the non-public school. Provides that reports of bullying or hazing made to the statewide toll-free telephone number shall not initiate a child abuse or neglect investigation under the Act. Requires the Department to (i) inform all school districts and non-public schools of the statewide toll-free telephone number and its function to receive reports of bullying or hazing and (ii) post on its website, in a relevant and conspicuous place, information on how a child can report an alleged incident of bullying or hazing to the statewide toll-free telephone number.

LRB101 07629 KTG 52676 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning children.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act is
5 amended by changing Section 7.6 as follows:

6 (325 ILCS 5/7.6) (from Ch. 23, par. 2057.6)
7 Sec. 7.6.

8 (a) There shall be a single State-wide, toll-free telephone
9 number established and maintained by the Department which all
10 persons, whether or not mandated by law, may use to report
11 suspected child abuse or neglect at any hour of the day or
12 night, on any day of the week. Immediately upon receipt of such
13 reports, the Department shall transmit the contents of the
14 report, either orally or electronically, to the appropriate
15 Child Protective Service Unit. Any other person may use the
16 State-wide number to obtain assistance or information
17 concerning the handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

18 Wherever the Statewide number is posted, there shall also
19 be posted the following notice:

20 "Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the
21 Department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under
22 subsection (a) (7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012.
23 A violation of this subsection is a Class 4 felony."

1 (b) As used in this subsection:

2 "Bullying" has the meaning ascribed to that term in Section
3 27-23.7 of the School Code.

4 "Hazing" means an act of hazing as described in Section
5 12C-50 of the Criminal Code of 2012.

6 School-aged children under the age of 18 may use the
7 statewide toll-free telephone number established under
8 subsection (a) to report alleged incidents of bullying or
9 hazing that occur at their school. Children who call the
10 statewide toll-free telephone number to report an alleged
11 incident of bullying or hazing may remain anonymous. Through
12 the statewide toll-free telephone number, the Department shall
13 provide callers with information on how to handle an alleged
14 incident of bullying or hazing. The information provided may
15 include a list of available resources developed or provided by
16 other federal or State agencies concerning bullying or hazing
17 prevention. Upon receipt of a child's report of bullying or
18 hazing, the Department shall report the incident as soon as
19 possible to the superintendent of the school district in which
20 the child resides or, if the child attends a non-public school,
21 the administrator of the non-public school. Reports made to the
22 statewide toll-free telephone number concerning an alleged
23 incident of bullying or hazing shall not initiate a child abuse
24 or neglect investigation under this Act and shall not be
25 transmitted to any Child Protective Services Unit.

26 The Department shall inform all school districts and

1 non-public schools in the State that school-aged children under
2 the age of 18 may call the statewide toll-free telephone number
3 established under subsection (a) to report alleged incidents of
4 bullying or hazing. The Department shall also post on its
5 website, in a relevant and conspicuous place, information on
6 how a child can report an alleged incident of bullying or
7 hazing to the statewide toll-free telephone number.

8 (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)