Legislative Analysis



INFORMATION ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT FOR STUDENTS

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Senate Bill 66 as passed by the Senate Sponsor: Sen. Stephanie Chang House Committee: Criminal Justice Analysis available at http://www.legislature.mi.gov

Senate Committee: Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety

Complete to 6-12-23

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 66 would add two new sections to the Revised School Code. Proposed section 1508 would require the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to make materials regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment available to school districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), and public school academies (PSAs, or charter schools). Local districts, ISDs, and PSAs would then be required to provide those and additional materials to their students in 6th through 12th grades. Proposed section 1526b would encourage district and ISD boards and PSA boards of directors to provide training in responding to students who have experienced those issues, at least every five years.

Under the bill, MDE, in consultation with experts on sexual assault and sexual harassment, including the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, would have to develop age-appropriate informational material on sexual assault and sexual harassment and make the material available to all districts, ISDs, and PSAs serving students in 6th through 12th grades. They would have to make it available no later than June 1, 2024.

The information would have to include all of the following:

- Information regarding what constitutes sexual assault or sexual harassment.
- An explanation that sexual assault or sexual harassment is not the victim's fault.
- Resources available for individuals who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment, including information on Title IX, appropriate contact information for organizations that offer assistance to victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment, and actions that the individual may take.

The districts, ISDs, and PSAs would then be required to disseminate that information, as well as contact information for their respective Title IX coordinator and policies on sexual assault and sexual harassment, to all of their 6th through 12th grade students. Specific information stating that the policies prohibit adverse action against an individual for reporting sexual assault or sexual harassment also would have to be included in the information disseminated to the students. The districts, ISDs, and PSAs would also have to ensure that the information remains accessible to students and parents and that it is included in student handbooks and on existing district, ISD, or PSA webpages.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, district and ISD boards and PSA boards of directors, together with a local organization that receives funding from the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and that serves the geographic area of

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the district, ISD, or PSA, would be encouraged to provide all educators and school personnel who have contact with pupils with training at least every five years in responding to students who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment. The training could be included as part of the professional development training that districts, ISDs, and PSAs must provide under section 1527 of the code. Districts, ISDs, and PSAs that are located in areas without a local organization that receives funding from the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board would be encouraged to provide the training together with the Board and the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The bill would take effect 90 days after enactment.

Proposed MCL 380.1508 and 380.1526b

FISCAL IMPACT:

A fiscal analysis is in progress.

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[■] This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.