**South Carolina General Assembly**

120th Session, 2013-2014

**H. 4564**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Ryhal, Brannon, Hardwick, H.A. Crawford, Burns, Barfield and Hardee

Document Path: l:\council\bills\ms\7382ab14.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 843

Introduced in the House on January 23, 2014

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Education and Public Works**

Summary: Bullying

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/23/2014 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 32](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\01-23-14.docx))

1/23/2014 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 32](file:///H:\HJ%20Archive\2014\01-23-14.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/23/2014](file:///p:\pprever\2013-14\4564_20140123.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑63‑130, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE PROHIBITION OF student HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, OR BULLYING in public schools, SO AS TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER MAY gratuitously INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF A STUDENT subjected to HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, OR BULLYING; AND TO AMEND SECTION 59‑63‑150, relating to certain legal immunities for a school employee or volunteer who reports an incident of student harassment, intimidation, OR bullying in compliance with district policy, so as to provide immunity from criminal or civil liability for a school employee or volunteer who in good faith gratuitously intervenes on behalf of a student subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑63‑130 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 353 of 2006, is amended to read:

“Section 59‑63‑130. (A) A person may not engage in:

(1) harassment, intimidation, or bullying; or

(2) reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against a victim, witness, or one with reliable information about an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

(B) A school employee, student, or volunteer who witnesses, or has reliable information that a student has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall report the incident to the appropriate school official.

(C) A school employee or volunteer may gratuitously intervene on behalf of a student being subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying.”

SECTION 2. Section 59‑63‑150 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 353 of 2006, is amended to read:

“Section 59‑63‑150. (A) This article must not be interpreted to prevent a victim from seeking redress pursuant to another available civil or criminal law. This section does not create or alter tort liability.

(B) A school employee or volunteer who promptly reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to the appropriate school official designated by the local school district’s policy, and who makes this report in compliance with the procedures in the district’s policy, is immune from a cause of action for damages arising from failure to remedy the reported incident.

(C)(1) A school employee or volunteer who in good faith gratuitously intervenes on behalf of a student being subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying may not be subject to criminal prosecution or liable for any civil damages except for acts amounting to wilful or wanton misconduct.

(2) The employer of a person who in good faith gratuitously intervenes on behalf of a student being subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying may not restrict, transfer, suspend, terminate, or otherwise hinder the employment of the individual because of this intervention.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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