

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6492

BILL NUMBER: HB 1107

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 8, 2025

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Bullying Oversight Committees and Ombudsman.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Manning

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes a State Bullying Ombudsman (ombudsman) position within the Department of Education (DOE). It establishes the duties of the ombudsman. The bill requires DOE to:

- (1) Provide staff and administrative support for the ombudsman; and
- (2) Post the ombudsman's contact information on DOE's website.

The bill also requires each school corporation to provide the ombudsman's contact information in certain rules, policies, and notices. It requires, with an exception, each school corporation to establish a bullying oversight committee (committee). The bill establishes the membership, authority, and duties of a committee. It provides that a parent of a targeted student may submit a complaint to the committee if the parent believes that:

- (1) The school administration failed to investigate a bullying or physical assault incident involving the targeted student; or
- (2) The resolution of an incident was insufficient or ineffective.

This bill requires DOE to adopt and post on DOE's website guidelines and model training materials for committee members. The bill provides that a parent may, under certain circumstances, request a hearing before the governing body of the school corporation regarding a complaint. It establishes requirements for a governing body of a school corporation that receives a request for a hearing. It also provides that a parent of a targeted student or parent of an alleged perpetrator may view any video evidence related to a bullying incident or physical assault involving the student for which a complaint or request for a hearing has been submitted.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Ombudsman:* The State Bullying Ombudsman established by the bill beginning in FY 2027 will increase annual expenditures for the Department of Education (DOE) by an estimated \$240,000 to \$400,000. Ultimately, the impact is dependent on the number of staff assigned to the ombudsman. The source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Bullying Oversight Committee: The bill increases the workload for DOE and the State Board of Education to create rules and guidance for bullying and oversight committees. The bill's requirements are within the agencies' routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

Additional Information - The ombudsman bureaus for the Department of Correction (DOC) and the Department of Child Services (DCS) were appropriated roughly \$240,000 and \$400,000 in FY 2027, respectively. Staff for the DOC ombudsman bureau consists of an ombudsman and one assistant, while the DCS ombudsman bureau consists of an ombudsman and three assistants. The State Bullying Ombudsman is estimated to receive \$160,000 in annual salary and benefits, while each additional assistant would increase expenditures by about \$85,000 per year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Bullying Oversight Committee:* Beginning in FY 2027, school corporation workload and/or expenditures could increase if enough school employees volunteer and a bullying oversight committee is established. Potential expenditures and workload for committee members is unknown, but could be sensitive to the number of received complaints on a school by school basis. Existing staffing and resources levels could be insufficient for full implementation of the bill's provisions. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Additional Information - School corporations are only required to establish a bullying oversight committee if at least two teachers from each of the corporation's schools volunteer for appointment onto the committee. If a bullying oversight committee is established, the bill allows parents to submit a complaint to the committee if they do not believe a bullying incident was sufficiently investigated or resolved. Each complaint must be investigated by committee members and a report with final recommendations must be completed within 30 days. School corporations who receive a large number of complaints could be required to provide additional compensation or reduce other duties currently assigned to the committee member. Bullying incidents reported by individual schools ranged from 0 to 116 in FY 2025 and 6,718 incidents were reported statewide.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; State Board of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: State Staffing Report, October 2025;

Department of Education, 2024-2025 Bullying Data.

<https://www.in.gov/doe/students/school-safety-and-wellness/student-safetybullying-reporting/>

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