

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 10 (Lowenthal)
As Amended September 1, 2023
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Department of Education (CDE), by June 30, 2025, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, to develop and post on its website a model policy and resources about body shaming that local educational agencies (LEAs) may use to educate staff and pupils about body shaming.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Extend the deadline for the CDE to post materials on its website to June 30, 2025.
- 2) Require the CDE to consult with the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS), the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), and other relevant stakeholders in the development of a model policy and resources about body shaming.
- 3) Authorizes the CDE to use existing resources or frameworks about body shaming and body image to meet these requirements.

COMMENTS

What is body shaming? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "body shaming" as "the act or practice of subjecting someone to criticism or mockery for supposed bodily faults or imperfections."

Body shaming involves humiliating someone by making inappropriate or negative comments about their body size or shape. As well as "fat shaming," it may also include negative comments if a person is underweight or in reference to a specific body part. It may be carried out in person or remotely via the internet and social media. Body shaming on digital platforms is related to cyberbullying. Body shaming can lead to mental health issues including eating disorders, depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and body dysmorphia, as well as the general feeling of hating one's body.

According to the Author

"AB 10 will ensure that LEAs develop policies and resources to educate teachers and faculty about the issue of body shaming, so that they are adequately equipped to address this issue with students and their parents. While LEAs are required to have policies about how to handle and address bullying, they are not currently required to have resources to address body shaming, which is not always characterized by bullying. Body shaming frequently leads to negative impacts on student mental health, which can cause students to withdraw from their friends, activities, classroom participation, and result in increased absenteeism, sadness, depression, and can even lead to suicidal thoughts and actions. By requiring LEAs to develop policies and resources to address this issue, they should be able to reduce instances of body shaming amongst student populations and ensure that teachers, faculty, and parents are prepared to address the topic with students when it does arise."

Arguments in Support

The California Teachers Association writes, "CTA believes self-esteem is a major factor in the educational success of all students and staff. The increasing mental, emotional, and environmental pressures upon the students and staff in California often result in increased drug and alcohol abuse, violence, dropout rate, pregnancy and suicide among students. Body shaming adversely impacts student's self-esteem. Research shows that students with low self-esteem are less likely to take academic risks, which adversely impacts their educational growth."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the CDE estimates one-time General Fund costs of approximately \$54,000 to develop and post the model policy on its website. The California Department of Public Health and the MHSOAC may also incur similar General Fund costs in the tens of thousands of dollars to consult with CDE on the development of the model policy and resources about body shaming.

VOTES:

ASM EDUCATION: 7-0-0

YES: Muratsuchi, Megan Dahle, Juan Carrillo, Hoover, Lee, McCarty, Quirk-Silva

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-2

YES: Holden, Megan Dahle, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Addis, Lowenthal, Papan, Pellerin, Robert Rivas, Sanchez, Weber, Wilson

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bryan, Mathis

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-6

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Megan Dahle, Davies, Dixon, Essayli, Flora, Mike Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Holden, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lackey, Lee, Low, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Jim Patterson, Joe Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Santiago, Schiavo, Soria, Ta, Ting, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Weber, Wicks, Wood, Zbur, Rendon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Cervantes, Vince Fong, Friedman, Villapudua, Waldron, Wilson

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Atkins, Becker, Blakespear, Bradford, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, Menjivar, Min, Newman, Nguyen, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Seyarto, Skinner, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Wiener, Wilk

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caballero

UPDATED

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