

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2242 (Davies) – As Amended March 26, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, a local educational agency (LEA) serving students in grades seven through 12, to display, in at least one men's, one women's, and one all-gender restroom used by students at each schoolsite, a sextortion information and resources poster printed in English and any primary language other than English spoken by at least 15% of students enrolled at the respective schoolsite.

The bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop and post on its internet website a model poster template for use by LEAs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs for all LEAs serving students in grades seven through 12, to post a sextortion information poster in bathrooms within each schoolsite, as specified.

According to the CDE, there are more than 400 unified and high school districts in California, collectively representing approximately 3,000 individual schoolsites, in addition to several elementary school districts who may also serve grades seven and eight as well as charter schools. If every impacted LEA incurred costs of \$50 associated with designing, printing, and posting the required poster at each schoolsite, costs could be at least \$150,000 statewide.

- 2) One-time General Fund cost pressures of an unknown amount, likely minor and absorbable, for the CDE to develop and post a model poster template.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Our children are facing a digital crisis where 'sextortion' and technology-facilitated harassment are devastating lives in the shadows of our schools. While existing laws mandate that sexual harassment policies stay tucked away in administrative offices, AB 2242 meets students where they are by placing life-saving information and reporting resources in the private, high-traffic areas of restrooms and locker rooms.

- 2) **Background.** According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), sextortion occurs when a criminal gains photographic or video content of an individual, often through some form of online communication that begins under friendly pretenses, which they threaten to publish, or threaten violence, unless the victim produces more images. The resulting shame, fear, and confusion experienced by the victim often prevents them from asking for help or reporting the abuse. According to the National Center for Missing or Exploited Children (NCMEC), between 2021 and 2023 there was a 300% increase in reports of online enticement, which includes sextortion.

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