
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 727
Author: Mark González (D), et al.
Amended: 6/19/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-2, 7/9/25
AYES: Pérez, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird
NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-13, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil and student safety: identification cards

SOURCE: Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Los Angeles LGBT Center
GenUp
Sacramento LGBT Community Center

DIGEST: This bill requires public schools serving students in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as well as public institutions of higher education (IHEs) that issue student identification (ID) cards to include printed contact information for the Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a public school, including a charter school, or a private school that serves students in grades 7 to 12 and issues student ID cards to print the following information on either side of the card:

- a) The telephone number for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
 - b) The telephone number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.
(Education Code (EC) § 215.5)
- 2) Authorizes a public school, including a charter school, or a private school that serves students in grades 7 to 12, and issues student ID cards to print the following information on either side of the card:
- a) A quick response (QR) code that links to the mental health resources internet website of the county in which the public or private school is located. (EC § 215.5)
- 3) Requires a public or private IHE that issues student ID cards to print the following information on either side of the card:
- a) The telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255.
 - b) The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or a local domestic violence hotline that provides confidential support services for students that have experienced domestic violence or stalking and is available by telephone 24 hours a day. (EC § 215.5)
- 4) Authorizes a public or private IHE that issues student ID cards to print the following information on either side of the card:
- a) The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting 'HOME' to 741741.
 - b) The campus police or security telephone number or, if the campus does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local nonemergency telephone number.
 - c) A local suicide prevention hotline telephone number. (EC § 215.5)
- 5) Specifies that if a school or a public or private IHE subject to these requirements has a supply of unissued pupil or student ID cards that do not comply with these requirements, the school or the public or private IHE is authorized to issue those pupil or student ID cards until that supply is depleted. (EC § 215.5)

- 6) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to complete the development of an online training curriculum and online delivery platform by July 1, 2025, and requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide and require at least one hour of training annually to all certificated staff, beginning with the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-30 school year, on cultural competency in supporting LGBTQ+ students.

This bill:

- 1) Requires, beginning July 1, 2026, public schools, including charter schools, serving students in grades 7 to 12, inclusive that issue student ID cards to include printed contact information for the Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline.
- 2) Requires, beginning July 1, 2026, public IHEs that issue student ID cards to include printed contact information for the Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline.
- 3) Makes findings and declarations on the prevalence of LGBTQ+ youth targeted bullying.
- 4) States that the Legislature encourages school districts, county offices of education (COEs), and charter schools to provide information on existing schoolsite and community resources to educate teachers, administrators, and other school staff on how to support LGBTQ+ and other pupils who may face anti-LGBTQ+ bias and bullying.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, "In today's political climate, LGBTQ+ students face significant levels of bullying, harassment, and discrimination—negatively impacting their mental health and academic success. AB 727 will provide critical resources to support LGBTQ+ youth in crisis and those who have experienced harassment.

"FBI data shows that reported hate crimes against LGBTQ+ youth in schools more than doubled between 2018 and 2022. However, due to voluntary reporting policies, the true numbers are likely even higher. A study by The Trevor Project found that among LGBTQ+ young people (ages 13-24), 39% seriously considered suicide in the past year, and 12% attempted it.

Additionally, 25% of those who attempted suicide reported experiencing physical threats or harm based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

“By requiring student ID cards for students in grades 7-12 and higher education to include The Trevor Project’s 24/7 crisis hotline and text line and mandating annual updates to the CDE’s website with LGBTQ+ support resources, AB 727 is a necessary step in ensuring that LGBTQ+ students receive the resources and support they need to thrive.”

- 2) *The Trevor Project Suicide and Crisis Line.* The Trevor Project is a national suicide prevention and crisis intervention non-profit that specializes in providing support for LGBTQ+ young people. In 2022, The Trevor Project began providing LGBTQ+ youth specialized support through the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. According to The Trevor Project, it serves nearly 50% of the LGBTQ+ youth specialized services’ contact volume. In 2024 alone, it directly served more than 231,000 crisis contacts, and trained and supported nearly 250 crisis counselors and operational support staff to support the 988 Lifeline.

To access The Trevor Project’s specialized support through the 988 Lifeline, individuals can dial 988 via phone, text, or chat. They are given the option to “press 3” or “reply PRIDE” to be connected with counselors trained specifically to assist LGBTQ+ contacts up to age 25. According to their website, The Trevor Project initially served as the sole provider for the pilot phase of 988 LGBTQ+ youth specialized services, before transitioning to serve as one of seven centers that currently comprise the LGBTQ+ Youth Subnetwork.

On June 18, 2025, the federal government’s Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA, announced that it would be ending the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline’s specialized suicide prevention services for LGBTQ+ youth, effective July 17, 2025. Previously, the LGBTQ+ Youth Subnetwork received up to \$50 million in restricted federal funds to provide these life-saving services. While efforts are underway to reverse the decision to end the specialized services, the Trevor Project’s independent helpline remains available to LGBTQ+ youth 24/7, 365 days a year.

Beginning July 1, 2025, public and private schools serving students in grades 7 through 12, inclusive, will be required to print the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number on either sides of their issued student ID cards. This bill, separately, would require public schools, including charter schools, as well as

public IHEs, to print on either side of its issued student ID cards, the Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline:

- a) Telephone number: 1-866-488-7386.
 - b) Text line, which can be accessed by texting START to 678-678.
- 3) *Limited space on Student ID cards.* Current law requires public and private IHEs to include the telephone number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, with the option to provide the Crisis Text Line and a local suicide prevention line. Statute also requires public and private schools and IHEs, as specified, to include the telephone number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline or a local domestic violence hotline, as specified. As previously mentioned, beginning July 1, 2025, schools will also be required to include the number for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, will be authorized to print a QR code or uniform resource locator (URL) directing students to the local county mental health agency's website.

This information is in addition to a student's name, identification number, photo, barcode, school logo, or any other information that a public school or public IHE has deemed necessary to include. A student ID card is roughly the same size as a State Driver's license. Thus, only a finite amount of information can be affixed to a student ID card while still being legible and usable to the student.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The bill's requirement for K-12 school and community college districts could result in a reimbursable state mandate. The Chancellor's Office estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs in the tens of thousands of dollars to reformat student ID cards at community college campuses. School districts serving students in grades seven through 12 are likely to incur similar one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to reformat student ID cards at their schoolsites.
- The University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) indicate that any costs resulting from this measure would be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis (co-source)

Los Angeles LGBT Center (co-source)

GenUp (co-source)

Sacramento LGBT Community Center (co-source)

Alameda County Office of Education

Alliance for TransYouth Liberation

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Charter Schools Association

California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus

California School-Based Health Alliance

California Youth Empowerment Network

CFT - A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

Courage California

Equality California

LGBTQ+ Inclusivity, Visibility, and Empowerment

Los Angeles County Office of Education

San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention

TransFamily Support Services

United Administrators of Southern California

University of California Student Association

Viet Rainbow of Orange County

Youth Forward

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

Alliance to Protect Children

Bridge Network

California Baptist for Biblical Values

California Family Council

Californians United for Sex-Based Evidence in Policy and Law

Informed Parents of California

Lighthouse Baptist Church

Lives Worth Saving

Our Duty

Pacific Justice Institute - Center for Public Policy

Real Impact.

Riverside County Sheriff's Office

Stand Up Sacramento County

The Intersection of Faith and Culture

The National Center for Law & Policy
Women are Real
8 Individuals

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-13, 6/3/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Castillo, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Chen, Davies, Lackey, Macedo, Ramos, Wallis

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
8/29/25 20:52:57

**** **END** ****