KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION **KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY** **Legislative Bill**	**Red | Bill # SB 53** **Referred to Committee: Senate 3**
Authors: Hunter Matthews, Kara Marr, Cameron Hedden	**Action on the Bill**
School: Shelby County High School	House: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated Senate: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated
City: Shelbyville	

An act to create strict consequences on bullying leading to suicide.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: Bullying and cyber-bullying is a growing problem for youth in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Some cases of bullying become so extreme that the victim takes their own life in an effort to escape. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people age 15-24. Currently, the harshest penalty for bullying/harassment is a Class B misdemeanor. A class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 90 days in jail and up to a $500 fine.

Section 2: This bill would categorize the act of bullying or harassment that precedes suicide or an attempted suicide as a class C felony, punishable by no less than five years imprisonment and no more than ten years imprisonment with a mandatory five years of parole.

Section 3: This bill will require little cost, as the only cost required would be for the training of teachers and school officials on how to handle a bullying situation. Teachers and other school personnel must be sure of how to handle these life threatening situations. The funding would come for the Kentucky Department of Education. Under the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, it is a teacher's or other public school official's obligation to address bullying between their students. However, there is no current law saying that a teacher is legally obligated to take action. In the event a teacher was to ignore acts of bullying and harassment that led to the suicide of a student, that school official will be subject to be charged with a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a fine up to $500.

Section 4: This bill would be enforced local law enforcement. This bill will go into effect January 1st, 2014.