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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

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Blue | Bill # SB 18

Referred to	Lommittee:					
Senate 4						

Authors: Emma Gillham, Carter Phipps, Bethany Young	Action o	on the Bill
School: Holy Name School	House	Senate
	□ Passed	Passed
City: Henderson	☐ Defeated	☐ Defeated

An act to develop a state regulated electronic reporting system for bullying in schools

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

Section One: The State Department of Education shall develop and manage a website where individuals can confidentially (not anonymously) report bullying. Those who file the bullying report will name the county and the school where the bullying is occurring, and the report will be electronically forwarded to the school.

Section Two: Schools will be responsible for dealing with the bullying in their own building (not the state). Principals and counselors are the people who will be notified of the bullying report. They will be expected to resolve the situation, or forward the matter to appropriate law enforcement personnel.

Section Three: Those who report the bullying can be either a victim of the bullying or a witness to the bullying. The reporting web site will ask questions such as: 1) What is happening? 2) How long has this been happening? 3) Locations of the bullying 4) Names and ages of those involved 5) Type of bullying (cyber, physical, verbal, mental)

Section Four: The report will not be anonymous. Reporters will give identifying information (name, grade, school). This will eliminate false reporting to simply hurt others. Anyone wishing to report anonymously may still do so at the school level by simply calling the school or sending a letter.

Section Five: A benefit to a state regulated reporting site is that schools can be held accountable for actively and decisively resolving situations with bullies. Too many schools do not take bullying seriously, and students suffer daily from a lack of help.

Section Six: Funding for building the site will be taken out of the Kentucky general education fund and supplemented by the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS).

Section Seven: Centers for Disease Control report that suicide is the second leading cause of death for Kentuckians 15–19 years of age. In the past two decades, the rate of suicide among 10–14 year olds has almost doubled. Bullying is a contributing factor to many of these deaths.

Section Eight: This bill will go into effect July 1, 2014.