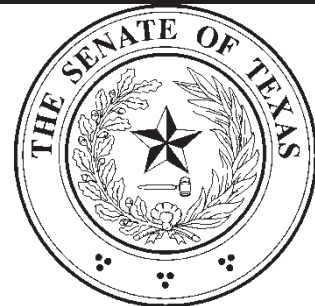


SENATOR
JOHN WHITMIRE
DISTRICT 15
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senator Whitmire files legislation to create anti-bullying prevention law

AUSTIN, Texas -- Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) announced today he filed Senate Bill 205 to address the continuing problems with bullying in our schools including the growing concerns with cyberbullying. Senator Whitmire stated, "All students have the right to participate fully in the educational process free from harassment and bullying." He added, "Anti-bullying policies must be in place before these incidents occur."

Having been advised by prosecutors that they have sufficient tools to deal with incidents that reach the level of penal code violations, the focus of the legislation will be on school districts policies to prevent these events. Some school districts may have policies, but parents and student may not be aware they exist, they may not be consistently enforced, or may not include cyberbullying processes.

The new law will define cyberbullying and empower school districts to address this growing problem. It requires school district to utilize evidence based practices to develop specific polices to prevent, investigate, and identify appropriate responses to protect the victim and correct the behavior of the aggressor.

"Without the proper recognition and interventions these events can lead to the worst case scenario of bullycide, as we have so painfully observed in my Houston district," stated Senator Whitmire.

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