By Senator Evers

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the code of student conduct;
amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; providing that simulating a
firearm or weapon while playing or wearing certain
clothing or accessories is not grounds for
disciplinary action or referral to the criminal
justice or juvenile justice system; providing actions
that constitute simulating a firearm or weapon while
playing; providing criteria for determining whether
certain student conduct warrants disciplinary action;
providing criteria for determining appropriate
consequences for such conduct; providing an effective
date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section
1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall
provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
welfare of students, including:
(2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.—Adopt a code of student
conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for
middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate code to
all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents, at the
beginning of every school year. Each code shall be organized and
written in language that is understandable to students and parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school year in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and parent and teacher association or organization meetings. Each code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the district school board and shall be made available in the student handbook or similar publication. Each code shall include, but is not limited to:

(g) Notice that the possession of a firearm or weapon as defined in chapter 790 by any student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function is grounds for disciplinary action and may also result in criminal prosecution. Simulating a firearm or weapon while playing or wearing clothing or accessories that depict a firearm or weapon or expressing an opinion regarding a right guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is not grounds for disciplinary action or referral to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system under this section or s. 1006.13. Simulating a firearm or weapon while playing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Brandishing a partially consumed pastry or other food item to simulate a firearm or weapon.
2. Possessing a toy firearm or weapon that is 2 inches or less in overall length.
3. Possessing a toy firearm or weapon made of plastic snap-together building blocks.
4. Using a finger or hand to simulate a firearm or weapon.
5. Vocalizing sounds of an imaginary firearm or weapon.
6. Drawing a picture or possessing an image of a firearm or
weapon.

7. Using a pencil, pen, or other writing or drawing utensil to simulate a firearm or weapon.

However, a student may be subject to disciplinary action if simulating a firearm or weapon while playing substantially disrupts student learning, causes bodily harm to another person, or places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm. The severity of consequences imposed upon a student, including referral to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system, must be proportionate to the severity of the infraction and consistent with district school board policies for similar infractions. If a student is disciplined for such conduct, the school principal or his or her designee must call the student’s parent. Disciplinary action resulting from a student’s clothing or accessories shall be determined pursuant to paragraph (d) unless the wearing of the clothing or accessory causes a substantial disruption to student learning, in which case the infraction may be addressed in a manner that is consistent with district school board policies for similar infractions. This paragraph does not prohibit a public school from adopting a school uniform policy.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.