

By Senator Bernard

24-00586-26

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to corporal punishment; amending s.
1002.20, F.S.; prohibiting school district employees
from using corporal punishment on public school
students; amending ss. 1003.32, 1006.07, and 1012.28,
F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section
1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public
school students must receive accurate and timely information
regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(4) DISCIPLINE.—

(c) *Corporal punishment.*—A school district employee may not
use

~~1. In accordance with s. 1003.32, corporal punishment, as
defined in s. 1003.01, on ef a public school student may only be
administered by a teacher or school principal within guidelines
of the school principal and according to district school board
policy. Another adult must be present and must be informed in
the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon
request, the teacher or school principal must provide the parent
with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and~~

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the name of the other adult who was present.

~~2. A district school board having a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall include in such policy a requirement that a parent provide consent for the school to administer corporal punishment. The district school board policy may require such consent for the school year, or before each administration. The district school board shall review its policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The district school board shall take public testimony at the board meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the district school board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 1003.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.32 Authority of teacher; responsibility for control of students; district school board and principal duties.—Subject to law and to the rules of the district school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any school shall have such authority for the control and discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the principal or the principal's designated representative and shall keep good order in the classroom and in other places in which he or she is assigned to be in charge of students.

(1) In accordance with this section and within the framework of the district school board's code of student conduct, teachers and other instructional personnel shall have the authority to undertake any of the following actions in managing student behavior and ensuring the safety of all

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students in their classes and school and their opportunity to learn in an orderly and disciplined classroom:

~~(k) Use corporal punishment according to school board policy and at least the following procedures, if a teacher feels that corporal punishment is necessary:~~

~~1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used. The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses, the conditions under which the punishment shall be administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff authorized to administer the punishment.~~

~~2. A teacher or principal may administer corporal punishment only in the presence of another adult who is informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the reason for the punishment.~~

~~3. A teacher or principal who has administered punishment shall, upon request, provide the student's parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.~~

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are 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

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welfare of students, including:

(1) CONTROL OF STUDENTS.—

(a) Adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide all cases recommended for expulsion. Suspension hearings are exempted from the provisions of chapter 120. Expulsion hearings shall be governed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2) and are exempt from s. 286.011. However, the student's parent must be given notice of the provisions of s. 286.011 and may elect to have the hearing held in compliance with that section. ~~The district school board may prohibit the use of corporal punishment, if the district school board adopts or has adopted a written program of alternative control or discipline.~~

(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:

(b) Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, ~~including corporal punishment.~~

Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 1012.28, Florida

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Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school principals.—

(5) Each school principal shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the district school superintendent, pursuant to the rules of the district school board. Such rules shall include, but are not limited to, rules relating to administrative responsibility, instructional leadership in implementing the state academic standards and the overall educational program of the school to which the school principal is assigned, submission of personnel recommendations to the district school superintendent, administrative responsibility for records and reports, ~~administration of corporal punishment,~~ and student suspension.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.