

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4544--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 6, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, ADDABBO, BAILEY, CLEARE, COMRIE, GIANARIS, GOUNARDES, JACKSON, MARTINEZ, MAYER, C. RYAN, SALAZAR, SKOUFIS, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "Jack Reid Law: Protect All Students Act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "Jack Reid Law: Protect All Students Act".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new article 2-A to read  
4 as follows:

### ARTICLE 2-A

#### JACK REID LAW: PROTECT ALL STUDENTS ACT

5  
6  
7 Section 19. Legislative intent.

8 20. Definitions.

9 21. Bullying and harassment prohibited.

10 22. Severability and construction.

11 § 19. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that students' ability  
12 to learn and to meet high academic standards, and a school's ability to  
13 educate its students, are compromised by incidents of harassment includ-  
14 ing bullying, taunting or intimidation. It is hereby declared to be the  
15 policy of the state to afford all students in nonpublic schools an envi-  
16 ronment free of bullying and harassment. The purpose of this article is  
17 to foster civility in nonpublic schools and to prevent and prohibit  
18 conduct which is inconsistent with a school's educational mission.

19 § 20. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following  
20 terms shall have the following meanings:

21 1. "School property" shall mean in or within any building, structure,  
22 athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained with-  
23 in the real property boundary line of a nonpublic elementary or second-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD07739-03-5

1 ary school; or in or on a school bus, as defined in section one hundred  
2 forty-two of the vehicle and traffic law.

3 2. "School function" shall mean a nonpublic school-sponsored extra-  
4 curricular event or activity.

5 3. "Harassment" and "bullying" shall mean the creation of a hostile  
6 environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including  
7 cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and  
8 substantially interfering with a student's educational performance,  
9 opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being;  
10 (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student  
11 to fear for their physical safety; (c) reasonably causes or would  
12 reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a  
13 student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates, or would fore-  
14 seeably create, a risk of substantial disruption within the school envi-  
15 ronment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation  
16 or abuse might reach school property. For purposes of this definition,  
17 the term "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-  
18 verbal actions.

19 4. "Cyberbullying" shall mean harassment or bullying as defined in  
20 subdivision three of this section, where such harassment or bullying  
21 occurs through any form of electronic communication.

22 5. "School" shall mean any nonpublic elementary or secondary school.

23 § 21. Bullying and harassment prohibited. 1. No student shall be  
24 subjected to harassment or bullying, including cyberbullying, by other  
25 students on school property or at a school function.

26 2. Upon a report of bullying, harassment, or retaliation, the princi-  
27 pal or head of school, or the principal or head of school's designee,  
28 must investigate promptly, communicate their findings with the victim  
29 and take immediate steps and appropriate follow-up action to ensure that  
30 such conduct has stopped and ensure the safety of the student or  
31 students including retaliation against any individual who in good faith  
32 reports such bullying or assists in the investigation.

33 3. Every school, subject to this section, shall adopt a written in  
34 plain-language anti-bullying and harassment policy, which must be  
35 published on the school's website or internal parent/student portal and  
36 shared annually with employees, parents, and students. Such policy shall  
37 include but not be limited to information on how bullying and harassment  
38 is defined, how incidents will be reported, investigated, and docu-  
39 mented, and an age-appropriate process for notifying the victim about  
40 the final outcome of the investigation.

41 4. School employees who witness bullying or harassment, or receive an  
42 oral or written report of bullying or harassment, shall promptly notify  
43 the principal or head of school or the principal's or head of school's  
44 designee, orally not later than one school day after such school employ-  
45 ee witnesses or receives a report of bullying and harassment, and must  
46 file a written report with the principal or head of school's designee  
47 not later than two school days after making the initial oral report.

48 § 22. Severability and construction. The provisions of this article  
49 shall be severable, and if any court of competent jurisdiction declares  
50 any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this article to be invalid,  
51 or its applicability to any government agency, person or circumstance is  
52 declared invalid, the remainder of this article and its relevant appli-  
53 cability shall not be affected. The provisions of this article shall be  
54 liberally construed to give effect to the purposes thereof.

55 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.