

House File 503 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 503

BY GOBBLE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school climate and bullying prevention
2 work group.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. SCHOOL CLIMATE AND BULLYING PREVENTION WORK
2 GROUP.

3 1. The department of education shall convene a
4 public-private work group of representatives of state and local
5 agencies, citizens, community groups, and organizations who
6 have experience and expertise in the areas of antibullying
7 education, research, and training. The work group, after
8 reviewing existing research, data, and strategies, shall
9 provide recommendations to the department regarding best
10 practices, training, resources, additional research needs,
11 data collection, changes to state law and administrative
12 rules, and any other matters to enhance statewide school
13 climate improvement and bullying prevention, awareness, and
14 intervention.

15 2. The membership of the work group shall include but not
16 be limited to the following, to be appointed by the director
17 of the department of education:

18 a. At least three Iowans who are experts in research-based
19 antibullying curricula or programs.

20 b. A public or nonpublic high school student.

21 c. A parent of a student enrolled in a public elementary or
22 secondary school on a full-time basis.

23 d. A parent of a student enrolled in a nonpublic elementary
24 or secondary school on a full-time basis.

25 e. A member from nominees submitted by the school
26 administrators of Iowa.

27 f. A member from nominees submitted by the Iowa association
28 of school boards.

29 g. A member from nominees submitted by the Iowa state
30 education association.

31 h. Representatives from any organizations representing
32 other relevant public or nonpublic school professionals.

33 i. A representative from a statewide organization that
34 provides research-based training on bullying for school
35 professionals.

- 1 j. A representative from at least one statewide
2 organization with at least five years' experience in advocating
3 on bullying prevention based on research-based best practices.
- 4 k. A representative for children placed in foster care.
- 5 l. A representative of school counselors.
- 6 m. A member from nominees submitted by the Iowa parent
7 teacher association.
- 8 n. A representative of Iowa safe schools.
- 9 3. When making appointments to the work group, the director
10 shall ensure that public, nonpublic, urban, and rural schools
11 are adequately represented by the membership of the work group.
- 12 4. The work group shall also include two ex officio members
13 of each house of the general assembly. One member each shall
14 be selected by the majority leader of the senate and by the
15 minority leader of the senate, and one member each shall be
16 selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and by
17 the minority leader of the house of representatives. Members
18 of the general assembly shall serve for terms as provided in
19 section 69.16B and shall be entitled to receive per diem and
20 necessary travel and actual expenses pursuant to section 2.10,
21 subsection 5, while carrying out their official duties as
22 members of the work group.
- 23 5. The department shall convene the work group by October
24 1, 2021. The work group shall submit its findings and
25 recommendations in a final report to the department and the
26 general assembly by December 17, 2022.

27 EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill requires the department of education to convene
31 a public-private work group of representatives of state and
32 local agencies, citizens, community groups, and organizations
33 who have experience and expertise in the areas of antibullying
34 education, research, and training. The work group, after
35 reviewing existing research, data, and strategies, shall

1 provide recommendations to the department regarding matters
2 to enhance statewide school climate improvement and bullying
3 prevention, awareness, and intervention. The bill provides for
4 membership of the work group to be appointed by the director of
5 the department. When making appointments to the work group,
6 the director must ensure that public, nonpublic, urban, and
7 rural schools are adequately represented by the membership
8 of the work group. The work group shall also include ex
9 officio legislative members. The department must convene the
10 work group by October 1, 2021. The work group must submit
11 its findings and recommendations in a final report to the
12 department and the general assembly by December 17, 2022.