

**House File 149 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 149  
BY BODEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying provisions related to the harassment or bullying  
2 of students enrolled in school districts or accredited  
3 nonpublic schools.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. An attendance center or school authorized to maintain a  
4 year-round calendar must serve all students attending the school  
5 and shall not be limited based on student achievement or based on  
6 the trait or characteristic of the student as defined in section  
7 280.28, Code 2024.

8 Sec. 2. Section 280.28, subsection 2, paragraph b, unnumbered  
9 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

10 "Harassment" and "bullying" shall be construed to mean any  
11 electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward  
12 a student ~~which is based on any actual or perceived trait~~  
13 ~~or characteristic of the student and which~~ that creates an  
14 objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of  
15 the following conditions:

16 Sec. 3. Section 280.28, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code 2025,  
17 is amended by striking the paragraph.

18 EXPLANATION

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

21 This bill modifies provisions related to the harassment or  
22 bullying of students enrolled in school districts or accredited  
23 nonpublic schools.

24 Current Code section 280.28 requires school districts and  
25 accredited nonpublic schools to adopt a policy declaring  
26 harassment and bullying in schools, on school property, and at  
27 any school function, or school-sponsored activity, regardless  
28 of its location, as against state and school policy. Current  
29 Code section 280.28 defines "harassment" and "bullying" to mean  
30 any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct  
31 toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived  
32 trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an  
33 objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of  
34 certain specified conditions. The bill modifies the definition  
35 of "harassment" and "bullying" to strike the language related to

1 any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student.

2 The definitions of "harassment" and "bullying" used in  
3 Code section 280.28 are referenced in Code sections 279.82  
4 (intra-district enrollment), 279.83 (notice to parents or  
5 guardians related to physical injuries, harassment, or bullying),  
6 and 282.18 (open enrollment).

7 The bill strikes the definition of "trait or characteristic of  
8 the student" from Code section 280.28. Code section 279.10(2)(b)  
9 (school year — beginning date — exemption) references the  
10 definition of "trait or characteristic of the student" contained  
11 in Code section 280.28. The bill makes a conforming change to  
12 Code section 279.10(2)(b) to cite to the definition of "trait or  
13 characteristic of the student" contained in Code section 280.28,  
14 Code 2024.

unofficial