

1 SB274
2 174264-1
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 23-FEB-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish the
9 Educator-Student Interaction Training Act.

10 This bill would require the State
11 Superintendent of Education, the School
12 Superintendents of Alabama, and the Alabama
13 Education Association to develop and disseminate at
14 an annual institute attended by public school
15 educators, one hour of training regarding
16 appropriate and inappropriate interaction between
17 educators and students.

18
19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT
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23 Relating to public K-12 education; to establish the
24 Educator-Student Interaction Training Act; to require the
25 State Superintendent of Education, the School Superintendents
26 of Alabama, and the Alabama Education Association to develop
27 and disseminate at an annual institute attended by public

1 school educators, one hour of training regarding appropriate
2 and inappropriate interaction between educators and students.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may
5 be cited as the Educator-Student Interaction Training Act.

6 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
7 following:

8 (1) The overwhelming majority of educators in the
9 public schools of the state are dedicated professionals who
10 comport themselves accordingly. However, an increasing number
11 of incidents have been reported in recent years where
12 educators have had inappropriate contact with students, both
13 in person and through social media, and in the contexts of
14 discipline and inappropriate relationships.

15 (2) Bringing together public education stakeholders
16 to develop and disseminate additional training for educators
17 on appropriate conduct should help reduce the number of such
18 incidents and ensure the safety and well-being of public
19 school students.

20 (c) The State Superintendent of Education, the
21 School Superintendents of Alabama, and the Alabama Education
22 Association shall cooperatively develop and disseminate
23 training regarding appropriate and inappropriate interaction
24 between educators and students. At a minimum, the training
25 shall include instruction on state law, state and local
26 education policies, and best practices regarding all of the
27 following:

1 (1) Sexual or romantic contact between educators and
2 students.

3 (2) Social media interaction between educators and
4 students.

5 (3) Interaction between educators and students
6 outside of the school setting.

7 (4) Corporal punishment and other disciplinary
8 measures.

9 (5) The use of physical restraint in maintaining
10 order in the classroom.

11 (d) Training shall be provided to educators annually
12 beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year as part of the
13 institutes required under Section 16-23-7, Code of Alabama
14 1975, and shall be at least one hour in length.

15 (e) (1) No person shall have a cause of action for
16 any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting
17 from the implementation of this section or resulting from any
18 training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

19 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by this
20 section may not be construed to impose any specific duty of
21 care or function as a waiver of any immunity or other
22 affirmative defense otherwise provided by law.

23 (f) The training required by this section is not
24 subject to waiver under the Alabama Accountability Act.

25 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
26 first day of the third month following its passage and
27 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

