

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MADAM PRESIDENT and MR. SPEAKER: Your committee on conference on Senate amendments to **HB 2261** submits the following report:

The House accedes to all Senate amendments to the bill, and your committee on conference further agrees to amend the bill, as printed with Senate Committee amendments, as follows:

On page 1, following line 6, by inserting:

"New Section 1. (a) In order to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded, the week of September containing the 17th day of such month in each year thereafter is hereby designated as "celebrate freedom week" in each public school offering any of the grades kindergarten through eight.

(b) The state board of education, in cooperation with such other state agencies or private entities who voluntarily participate, shall promote "celebrate freedom week" through a coordinated program.

(c) For purposes of this section, Sunday is deemed to be the first day of the week.

New Sec. 2. On or before December 31, 2013, the state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations requiring appropriate instruction be provided as part of the curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight on history and government concerning the original intent, meaning and importance of the declaration of independence and the United States constitution, including the bill of rights of the United States constitution, in

their historical contexts. The religious references in the writings of the founding fathers shall not be censored when presented as part of such instruction. Such rules and regulations shall provide that the study of the declaration of independence include the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of such ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the American revolution, the formulation of the United States constitution and the abolitionist movement, which led to the emancipation proclamation and the women's suffrage movement. Such instruction shall be taught during "celebrate freedom week," established under section 1, and amendments thereto, or during such other full school week as determined by the board of education of the school district.";

On page 9, in line 32, by striking "June" and inserting "July"; in line 34, by striking "June 30" and inserting "July 15";

On page 11, following line 9, by inserting:

"Sec. 15. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 72-8256 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-8256. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Bullying" means: (A) Any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat either by any student, staff member or parent towards a student or by any student, staff member or parent towards a staff member that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that ~~it~~ such gesture, act or threat creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment ~~for a student or staff member~~ that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will

have the effect of:

(i) Harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally;

(ii) damaging a student's or staff member's property;

(iii) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member; or

(iv) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student's or staff member's property;

(B) cyberbullying; or

(C) any other form of intimidation or harassment prohibited by the board of education of the school district in policies concerning bullying adopted pursuant to this section or subsection (e) of K.S.A. 72-8205, and amendments thereto.

(2) "Cyberbullying" means bullying by use of any electronic communication device through means including, but not limited to, e-mail, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, mobile phones, pagers, online games and websites.

(3) "Parent" includes a guardian, custodian or other person with authority to act on behalf of the child.

(4) "School district" or "district" means any unified school district organized and operating under the laws of this state.

~~(3)~~(5) "School vehicle" means any school bus, school van, other school vehicle and private vehicle used to transport students or staff members to and from school or any school-sponsored activity or event.

(6) "Staff member" means any person employed by a school district.

(b) The board of education of each school district shall adopt a policy to prohibit bullying either by any student, staff member or parent towards a student or by a student, staff member or parent towards a staff member on or while utilizing school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event.

(c) The board of education of each school district shall adopt and implement a plan to address bullying either by any student, staff member or parent towards a student or by a student, staff member or parent towards a staff member on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event. Such plan shall include provisions for the training and education for staff members and students.

(d) The board of education of each school district may adopt additional policies relating to bullying pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 72-8205, and amendments thereto.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or supersede or in any manner affect or diminish the requirements of compliance by a staff member with the provisions of K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 38-2223 or 38-2226, and amendments thereto."

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 12, in line 10, after "72-8250," by inserting "72-8256,";

On page 1, in the title, in line 1, by striking "school finance" and inserting "the financing thereof; relating to the policies thereof; establishing celebrate freedom week and related curriculum"; in line 3, after "72-8250," by inserting "72-8256,";

And your committee on conference recommends the adoption of this report.

Conferees on part of Senate

Conferees on part of House