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2015

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to standard student attire; providing
 3 a short title; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.; authorizing
 4 district school boards to adopt a standard student
 5 attire policy; establishing criteria for and the
 6 purpose of the policy; providing immunity from civil
 7 liability for district school boards that implement a
 8 standard student attire policy under certain
 9 conditions; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; creating a safe
 10 schools allocation to provide funding to school
 11 districts for certain safe schools activities;
 12 providing for the withholding of a district's safe
 13 schools funding for failure to comply with certain
 14 reporting requirements with respect to school safety
 15 and student discipline; authorizing additional funding
 16 for school districts that implement a standard student
 17 attire policy; providing an appropriation; providing
 18 an effective date.

19
 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
 22 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Students Attired
 23 for Education (SAFE) Act."

24 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 25 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26 1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school

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27 | board.—The district school board may exercise the following
 28 | supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or
 29 | State Board of Education rule.

30 | (1) STUDENT MANAGEMENT.—The district school board may
 31 | adopt programs and policies to ensure the safety and welfare of
 32 | individuals, the student body, and school personnel, which
 33 | programs and policies may:

34 | (b) Require that the attire ~~uniforms~~ to be worn by the
 35 | student body conform to a standard student attire policy that
 36 | prohibits certain types or styles of clothing and requires solid
 37 | colored clothing and fabrics for pants, skirts, shorts, or
 38 | similar clothing and short or long sleeved shirts with collars.
 39 | The policy may authorize a small logo but may not authorize a
 40 | motto or slogan. The purpose of a standard student attire policy
 41 | is to provide a safe environment that fosters learning and
 42 | improves school safety and discipline by:

43 | 1. Encouraging students to express their individuality
 44 | through personality and academic achievements, rather than
 45 | outward appearance.

46 | 2. Enabling students to focus on academics, rather than
 47 | fashion, because they are able to project a neat, serious, and
 48 | studious image.

49 | 3. Minimizing disciplinary problems because students are
 50 | not distracted by clothing.

51 | 4. Reducing the time needed to correct dress code
 52 | violations through a readily available inventory of compliant

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53 attire.

54 5. Minimizing visible differences and eliminating social
 55 pressures to wear brand name clothing or "gang colors," thereby
 56 easing financial pressures on parents and enhancing school
 57 safety.

58 6. Creating a sense of school pride and belonging.

59
 60 A district school board may implement a standard student attire
 61 policy as part of an overall program to foster and promote
 62 desirable school operating conditions and a safe and supportive
 63 educational environment. A standard student attire policy must
 64 allow a parent to opt his or her student out of the policy for
 65 religious purposes or by reason of a disability. A district
 66 school board that implements a districtwide standard student
 67 attire policy for all students in at least kindergarten through
 68 eighth grade is immune from civil liability resulting from
 69 adoption of the policy in accordance with this paragraph, ~~or~~
 70 ~~impose other dress-related requirements, if the district school~~
 71 ~~board finds that those requirements are necessary for the safety~~
 72 ~~or welfare of the student body or school personnel. However,~~
 73 Students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun-protective wear
 74 while outdoors during school hours, such as when students are at
 75 recess.

76 Section 3. Subsection (16) is added to section 1011.62,
 77 Florida Statutes, to read:

78 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual

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79 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
 80 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
 81 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
 82 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
 83 follows:

84 (16) SAFE SCHOOLS ALLOCATION.—A safe schools allocation is
 85 created to provide funding for allowable safe schools
 86 activities. Each school district shall receive a minimum safe
 87 schools allocation in an amount provided in the General
 88 Appropriations Act. Of the remaining funds provided in the
 89 General Appropriations Act for safe schools activities, two-
 90 thirds shall be allocated among the school districts based on
 91 each district's proportionate share of Total Index Crime for
 92 Florida by county reported by the Department of Law Enforcement
 93 in its most recent Uniform Crime Reports offense data and one-
 94 third shall be allocated based on each district's proportionate
 95 share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent
 96 student enrollment.

97 (a) Allowable safe schools activities shall be provided in
 98 the General Appropriations Act. The department shall monitor
 99 compliance with the reporting procedures of ss. 1006.09 and
 100 1006.147. If a district does not comply with the reporting
 101 procedures, the district's funds from the safe schools
 102 allocation shall be withheld and reallocated to other school
 103 districts. Each school district shall report to the Department
 104 of Education the amount of funds expended for each of the

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105 allowable safe schools activities.

106 (b) Each school district that implements a districtwide
 107 standard student attire policy in accordance with s.
 108 1001.43(1)(b) shall receive an additional amount allocated as
 109 awards of \$10 per student in kindergarten through grade 8 to
 110 qualified school districts. Before the release of funds, the
 111 district school superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner
 112 of Education, no later than September 1 of each year, that the
 113 district school board has implemented a standard student attire
 114 policy in accordance with s. 1001.43(1)(b). If funds
 115 specifically appropriated are insufficient to provide \$10 per
 116 student, the available funds shall be prorated to qualified
 117 school districts on a per-student basis. As of June 30 of each
 118 year, any funds provided pursuant to this paragraph that have
 119 not been disbursed to qualified school districts shall revert to
 120 the fund from which they were appropriated pursuant to s.
 121 216.301.

122 Section 4. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$10
 123 million in recurring general revenue funds is appropriated to
 124 the Florida Education Finance Program Safe Schools Allocation
 125 for the purpose of implementing s. 1011.62(16)(b), Florida
 126 Statutes, as created by this act.

127 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.