

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 199

Short Title: Freedom from Abuse.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Crawford, Batch, and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 9, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH
3 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, INCLUDING
4 SEXUAL ABUSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(47) Duty regarding abuse and neglect. – The State Board of Education, in
8 consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall adopt a policy
9 to be implemented by the governing body of each public secondary school, as
10 defined in G.S. 115C-105.51, to provide students in grades six through 12
11 with information on child abuse and neglect, including age-appropriate
12 information on sexual abuse. This policy shall apply at public secondary
13 schools under the control of the State Board of Education, including schools
14 operated under Article 9C of this Chapter. Information shall be provided in
15 the form of (i) a document provided to all students at the beginning of each
16 school year and (ii) a display posted in visible, high-traffic areas throughout
17 each public secondary school. The document and display shall include, at a
18 minimum, the following information:

- 19 a. Likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of abuse
20 or neglect, including age-appropriate information on sexual abuse.
21 b. The telephone number used for reporting abuse and neglect to the
22 department of social services in the county in which the local school
23 administrative unit is located, in accordance with G.S. 7B-301.
24 c. A statement that information reported pursuant to sub-subdivision
25 (47)b. of this section shall be held in the strictest confidence, to the
26 extent permitted by law, pursuant to G.S. 7B-302(a1).
27 d. Available resources developed pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.51,
28 including the anonymous safety tip line application."

29 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

30 "(e2) Abuse and Neglect Policy. – A charter school shall implement the policy addressing
31 student awareness of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, adopted by the State Board
32 of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47)."

33 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

34 "(7f) Abuse and neglect policy. – A regional school shall implement the policy
35 addressing student awareness of child abuse and neglect, including sexual
36 abuse, adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47)."



1 **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 116-11(12e) reads as rewritten:
2 "(12e) The Board of Governors shall develop and operate an anonymous tip line in
3 accordance with G.S. 115C-105.51 for all public secondary schools, as
4 defined in that section, operated under the control of the Board of Governors.
5 The Board of Governors shall implement the policy addressing student
6 awareness of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, adopted by the
7 State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47) for all public secondary
8 schools under the control of the Board of Governors."
9 **SECTION 2.(d)** Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 is amended by adding a new
10 subdivision to read:
11 "(1a) G.S. 115C-12(47), Duty regarding abuse and neglect."
12 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
13 the 2021-2022 school year.