

SENATE BILL No. 153

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-8.1-14.

Synopsis: School uniforms. Requires the governing body of a school corporation to adopt a dress code that designates a school uniform for students in kindergarten through middle school or junior high school to wear during the school day. Allows a parent to exempt the parent's child from the dress code. Requires the dress code to be clearly written and reasonably designed to achieve certain purposes. Provides for parental, community, and school community involvement before adoption of the dress code and school uniform. Requires establishment of a program to assist students who are eligible for free or reduced price school lunches in obtaining school uniforms free or at a reduced cost that does not involve the spending of school corporation money acquired through state or local taxes. Requires written notice of information about school uniforms to parents. Provides that a school uniform is considered clothing for poor relief purposes.

Effective: July 1, 1998.

Howard

January 6, 1998, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



Introduced

Second Regular Session 110th General Assembly (1998)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1997 General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 153

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-8.1-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 1998]:

4 **Chapter 14. Uniforms and Dress Code**
5 **Sec. 1. The governing body of a school corporation shall adopt**
6 **and implement a dress code for students enrolled in the school**
7 **corporation in kindergarten through the highest grade of middle**
8 **school or junior high school, whichever is applicable.**

9 **Sec. 2. The dress code adopted under this chapter must do the**
10 **following:**

11 (1) **Subject to subdivisions (2) and (4), designate for each**
12 **elementary, middle, and junior high school in the school**
13 **corporation a school uniform that students must wear at**
14 **reasonable times when attending school. The school uniform**
15 **may vary among the different schools in the school**
16 **corporation.**

17 (2) **Allow a parent to apply for and receive for the parent's**



1 child an exemption from wearing a school uniform.

2 (3) Provide that a student who receives an exemption under
3 subdivision (2) may not be:

- 4 (A) penalized academically;
5 (B) denied school admission or attendance; or
6 (C) otherwise discriminated against.

7 (4) Allow a student who participates in a nationally
8 recognized youth organization to wear the youth organization
9 uniform to school on a day that the organization has a
10 scheduled meeting.

11 **Sec. 3. The dress code must be clearly written and the dress code
12 and school uniform required by the dress code must be reasonably
13 designed to achieve the following purposes:**

14 (1) Protect students by providing a safer and more secure
15 school environment.

16 (2) Foster the educational process by providing a school
17 environment that:

- 18 (A) is reasonably free from distractions, violence, and
19 unnecessary disruptions and disturbances;
20 (B) focuses on the classroom and on the learning process;
21 (C) significantly improves student behavior and reduces
22 disturbances among students; and
23 (D) promotes school pride.

24 (3) Discourage the wearing of gang related apparel that may:

- 25 (A) disrupt the learning environment;
26 (B) reflect a threat of violence and a message of violence;
27 (C) be hazardous to the health and safety of the school
28 environment; and
29 (D) facilitate the concealment of weapons.

30 (4) Promote parental and community involvement in the
31 schools.

32 **Sec. 4. Before a governing body adopts a dress code and
33 designates a school uniform under this chapter, the governing body
34 must do the following:**

35 (1) Consult with teachers, principals, parents, students, school
36 and community organizations, and vendors about:

- 37 (A) the proposed dress code;
38 (B) the components and design of the proposed school
39 uniform; and
40 (C) programs that are designed to assist students who are
41 eligible for free or reduced price school lunches in
42 obtaining free or reduced price school uniforms at no



- 1 expense to the school corporation.
- 2 (2) Hold a public hearing on the proposed dress code and
- 3 school uniform.
- 4 **Sec. 5.** A governing body that designates a school uniform under
- 5 this chapter shall establish or ensure the establishment of a
- 6 program to assist students who are eligible for free or reduced
- 7 price school lunches in obtaining school uniforms free or at a
- 8 reduced cost. The program may:
- 9 (1) not require expenditures by the school corporation of
- 10 money acquired from state or local taxes; and
- 11 (2) be provided by an individual or organization other than
- 12 the school corporation.
- 13 **Sec. 6.** At least six (6) months before the implementation of a
- 14 dress code adopted under this chapter and at least one (1) month
- 15 before the beginning of a school year, a school corporation shall
- 16 give written notice to a parent of a student who is required to wear
- 17 a school uniform. The written notice must contain the following
- 18 information:
- 19 (1) The requirements of the dress code.
- 20 (2) The specifications of the school uniform.
- 21 (3) The effective dates of the dress code and the school
- 22 uniform requirement.
- 23 (4) Procedures, prices, vendors, and other useful information
- 24 for obtaining school uniforms.
- 25 (5) The availability of free or reduced price school uniforms
- 26 for students who are also eligible for free or reduced price
- 27 school lunches.
- 28 (6) The availability of an exemption from the dress code.
- 29 (7) Other information that may be useful to students and
- 30 parents.
- 31 **Sec. 7.** A school uniform designated under this chapter is
- 32 considered clothing for purposes of IC 12-20 for students who are
- 33 enrolled in a school having a designated uniform.
- 34 SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1998] (a) The governing body
- 35 of a school corporation shall adopt and implement a dress code
- 36 under IC 20-8.1-14, as added by this act, not later than the
- 37 beginning day of the 1999-2000 school year.
- 38 (b) This SECTION expires January 1, 2001.

