

HOUSE BILL No. 1363

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-8.1-14.

Synopsis: Uniforms for public school. Allows the governing body of a school corporation to adopt and implement a school uniform policy for the school corporation. Allows a parent to receive for the parent's child an exemption from wearing a school uniform. Requires a school corporation to establish a program to assist students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches with the purchase of uniforms.

Effective: July 1, 1999.

Summers

January 12, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

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 1998 General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1363

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, 1999]:

4 **Chapter 14. School Uniform Policy**

5 **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to school corporations.**

6 **Sec. 2. The governing body of a school corporation may adopt
7 and implement a school uniform policy for students enrolled in the
8 school corporation in kindergarten through grade 12.**

9 **Sec. 3. The school uniform policy adopted under this chapter
10 must do the following:**

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

16 (2) Allow a parent to apply for and receive for the parent's
17 child an exemption from wearing a school uniform.



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

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

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

10 (5) Provide for the enforcement of the school uniform policy.

11 **Sec. 4. (a) The school uniform policy must be clearly written.**

12 **(b) The school uniform must be reasonably designed to achieve
13 the following purposes:**

14 **(1) Foster the educational process by providing a school
15 environment that does the following:**

- 16 **(A) Focuses on the classroom and on the learning process.**
17 **(B) Improves student behavior.**
18 **(C) Promotes school pride.**
19 **(D) Reduces distractions.**

20 **(2) Provide a safer and more secure school environment.**

21 **(3) Promote parental and community involvement in the
22 schools.**

23 **Sec. 5. Before a governing body adopts a school uniform policy
24 under this chapter, the governing body must do the following:**

25 **(1) Consult with teachers, principals, parents, students, school
26 and community organizations, and vendors about:**

- 27 **(A) the proposed school uniform policy;**
28 **(B) the components and design of the proposed school
29 uniform; and**

30 **(C) programs that are designed to assist students who are
31 eligible for free or reduced price school lunches in
32 obtaining free or reduced price school uniforms at no
33 expense to the school corporation.**

34 **(2) Hold a public hearing on the proposed school uniform
35 policy and school uniform.**

36 **Sec. 6. The governing body shall establish or ensure the
37 establishment of a program to assist students who are eligible for
38 free or reduced price school lunches in obtaining free or reduced
39 price school uniforms. The program may:**

- 40 **(1) not require expenditures by the school corporation of
41 money acquired from state or local taxes; and**
42 **(2) be provided by an individual or organization other than**

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1 the school corporation.
2 **Sec. 7.** At least one (1) month before the beginning of a school
3 year when the school uniform policy is in effect, a school
4 corporation shall give written notice to the parent of a student who
5 is required to wear a school uniform. The written notice must
6 contain the following information:
7 (1) The requirements of the school uniform policy.
8 (2) The specifications of the school uniform.
9 (3) Procedures, prices, vendors, and other useful information
10 for obtaining school uniforms.
11 (4) The availability of an exemption from the dress code.
12 (5) The availability of free or reduced price school uniforms
13 for students who are also eligible for free or reduced price
14 school lunches.
15 (6) Other information that may be useful to students and
16 parents.
17 **Sec. 8.** A school uniform designated under this chapter is
18 considered clothing for purposes of IC 12-20 for students who are
19 enrolled in a school having a designated school uniform.

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