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**SENATE BILL No. 396**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-30-5.6.

**Synopsis:** Dating violence policy and instruction. Requires school corporations to have dating violence policies and instruction.

**Effective:** July 1, 2009.

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**Simpson**

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January 12, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

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 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## SENATE BILL No. 396



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 20-30-5.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2009]:

4 **Chapter 5.6. Dating Violence Education**

5 **Sec. 1. (a) As used in this chapter, "at school" means in a**  
6 **classroom, on or immediately adjacent to school premises, on a**  
7 **school bus or other school related vehicle, at an official school bus**  
8 **stop, or at any school sponsored activity or event whether the**  
9 **activity or event is on school grounds.**

10 **(b) As used in this chapter, "dating partner" means a person,**  
11 **regardless of gender, involved with another person in an intimate**  
12 **relationship that is characterized primarily by the expectation of**  
13 **affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long term.**

14 **(c) As used in this chapter, "dating violence" means a pattern**  
15 **of behavior in which one (1) person uses threats of, or actually**  
16 **uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the**  
17 **person's dating partner.**



1           **Sec. 2.** Each school corporation shall include in the school  
2 corporation's health education curriculum for grades 7 through 12  
3 instruction concerning dating violence.

4           **Sec. 3.** The:  
5           (1) department shall develop guidelines; and  
6           (2) state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2;  
7 concerning the instruction required under this chapter to assist  
8 teachers assigned to teach the material described in this chapter.

9           **Sec. 4.** Guidelines and rules adopted under section 3 of this  
10 chapter must include:  
11           (1) basic principles of dating violence;  
12           (2) warning signs of dating violence; and  
13           (3) the school corporation's dating violence policy.

14           **Sec. 5.** The department shall develop a model dating violence  
15 policy to assist school corporations in developing policies for dating  
16 violence reporting and response. The department shall issue the  
17 model policy by April 1, 2010.

18           **Sec. 6.** Each school corporation shall establish a specific policy  
19 to address incidents of dating violence involving students at school  
20 by December 1, 2010. Each school shall verify compliance with the  
21 department on an annual basis through the annual performance  
22 report required under IC 20-20-8.

23           **Sec. 7.** The policy developed under section 6 of this chapter must  
24 include the following:  
25           (1) A statement explaining that dating violence is not  
26 tolerated.  
27           (2) Reporting procedures for dating violence incidents.  
28           (3) Guidelines for responding to at school incidents of dating  
29 violence.  
30           (4) Discipline procedures.

31           **Sec. 8.** The policy developed under section 6 of this chapter shall  
32 be published in the school corporation's discipline rules as  
33 prescribed under IC 20-33-8.

34           **Sec. 9.** Each school corporation shall provide dating violence  
35 training to all administrators, teachers, nurses, and mental health  
36 staff at the middle school, junior high school, and high school  
37 levels. Upon the recommendation of the administrator, other staff  
38 may be included or may attend the training on a volunteer basis.  
39 The dating violence training must include, but is not limited to:  
40           (1) basic principles of dating violence;  
41           (2) warning signs of dating violence; and  
42           (3) the school corporation's dating violence policy.

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1     **The training must prepare school staff members to appropriately**  
2     **respond to incidents of dating violence at school. The school**  
3     **corporation shall provide training annually to all newly hired**  
4     **school staff the school's administration considers appropriate.**  
5         **Sec. 10. Each school corporation shall inform the students'**  
6     **parents or guardians of the school corporation's dating violence**  
7     **policy. If requested, the school corporation shall provide the**  
8     **parents or guardians with the school corporation's dating violence**  
9     **policy.**  
10         **Sec. 11. This chapter does not prevent a victim from seeking**  
11     **redress under any other civil or criminal law.**

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