

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 645

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to including antisemitism in the definition of bullying
3 for the purpose of school discipline policies.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 37.0832(a), Education Code, is amended
6 by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (3) to read as
7 follows:

8 (1) "Bullying":

9 (A) means a single significant act or a pattern
10 of acts by one or more students directed at another student that
11 exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or
12 verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or
13 physical conduct that satisfies the applicability requirements
14 provided by Subsection (a-1), and that:

15 (i) has the effect or will have the effect
16 of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or
17 placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person
18 or of damage to the student's property;

19 (ii) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or
20 pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating,
21 threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;

22 (iii) materially and substantially
23 disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a
24 classroom or school; or

1 (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim
2 at school; and

3 (B) includes cyberbullying and antisemitism.

4 (3) "Antisemitism" means conduct described by
5 Paragraph (1)(A) that is based on a certain perception of Jews that
6 may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes
7 rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish
8 or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish
9 community institutions and religious facilities. Examples of
10 antisemitism are included with the International Holocaust
11 Remembrance Alliance's "Working Definition of Antisemitism"
12 adopted on May 26, 2016.

13 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
14 school year.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.