

1 SENATE BILL NO. 264

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

4 on _____)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Stanley)

6 *A BILL to direct the Department of Education to develop and make available to school boards guidelines for*
7 *including in individualized education programs strategies and supports to address and prevent bullying,*
8 *harassment, and teasing and model instructional programs or materials for students on awareness,*
9 *understanding, and acceptance of neurodivergence.*10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**11 *1. § 1. That the Department of Education shall, for the purpose of addressing and preventing bullying,*
12 *harassment, and teasing of children with disabilities and increasing awareness and acceptance of*
13 *neurodivergence, including autism spectrum disorder, among students, develop, make available to each*
14 *school board, and post on its website:*15 *1. Guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams to use in developing IEPs for children*
16 *with disabilities relating to addressing and preventing bullying, harassment, and teasing that shall (i)*
17 *recommend that an IEP team consider whether the child has a disability that affects social skills development*
18 *or is experiencing or has experienced bullying, harassment, or teasing in school and (ii) if either*
19 *consideration in clause (i) is applicable, include guidance on certain strategies, services, and supports to*
20 *consider including in the child's IEP to support the child in achieving objectives relating to addressing and*
21 *preventing bullying, harassment, and teasing, including the development of appropriate social skills and self-*
22 *advocacy and self-awareness skills; and*23 *2. Model instructional programs or materials for students designed to increase awareness, understanding,*
24 *and acceptance of neurodivergence and autism spectrum disorder.*25 *In developing such guidelines and model instructional programs or materials, the Department shall*
26 *consult with special education instructors, groups dedicated to disability and neurodivergence advocacy, and*
27 *such other stakeholders as the Department deems appropriate.*