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**SENATE BILL 9002**

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**State of Washington** **65th Legislature** **2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First read XX/XX/XX. Referred to Committee on Education.

AN ACT Relating to mandatory school uniform policy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec.** The legislature finds that, in order to fully take advantage of the opportunity for successful student achievement provided by the state's school system, the students' focus while at school must be on learning. The legislature further finds that the wearing of required uniforms by students not only removes distractions, but also contributes to a more positive school environment, improved grades, fewer rule infractions, better focused students, a sense of school pride, and a more cohesive and safer school environment.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.** All students enrolled in public school grades K-12 are required to wear uniforms while in school. For purposes of this section, "in school” means the operating hours of the school.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.** (1) Every public school board of directors shall establish a uniform policy.

(2) Any changes in color or style must be approved by the school board.

(3) Upon approval by the school board, specific activities, including extracurricular activities, that occur during operating hours of a school may be exempted from the uniform policy.

(4) Following changes in school uniform policy, students must be given at least thirty days to comply.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, aschool uniform policy must not discriminate based on sex, gender, religion, or physical condition.

(2) Upon request, an exemption to the school uniform policy must be given to those students unable to comply with the school uniform policy by reason of their sex, gender, religion, or physical condition.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.** (1) Student failure to comply with the uniform policy established by the school board shall be subject to the following disciplinary measures:

(a) For the first infraction, in school suspension for the remainder of the day of infraction; and,

(b) For the second and any subsequent infractions, a three day suspension from school.

(2) All absences relating to failure to comply with the school uniform policy shall be considered unexcused.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 2 through 5 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

**--- END ---**

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SB 9002**

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| This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent. |

**Title**: An act relating to mandatory school uniform policy.

**Brief Description**: Concerning dress and grooming codes for public schools in grades K-12 and requiring school boards to implement mandatory student uniform policies.

**Sponsors**: Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION |

**Staff**: [Teacher’s Name]

**Background**: School district boards of directors may determine dress code and uniform requirements for students attending district schools. However, school districts must accommodate students so that the requirement to wear a uniform does not interfere with a student’s participation and attendance in school.

Many public school systems have enacted voluntary or mandatory uniform policies including Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dayton, Detroit, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Miami, Memphis, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Orleans, Phoenix, Seattle and St. Louis. Many private schools have also implemented school uniform policies.

According to the United States Department of Education (Department), South Shore Middle School in Seattle implemented a school uniform policy in 1995 that included an option to opt-out with parental consent. The Department reports that only five students decided to attend other schools as a result of the policy, while instances of truancy, tardiness, and thefts went down.

**Summary of Bill**: Public K-12 students are required to wear uniforms. Public school boards of directors must establish mandatory uniform policies, which may include exemptions for particular activities. Any changes must be approved by the school board. Upon making any change in policy, students must be afforded at least 30 days to comply.

A uniform policy must not discriminate based on sex, gender, religion, or physical condition. However, students may request an exemption to the policy by reason of sex, gender, religion, or physical condition.

Students who violate the uniform policy of their district are subject to in-school suspension for the first infraction and three-day suspension for subsequent infractions. Absences for uniform violations are considered unexcused.

**Appropriation**: None.

**Fiscal Note**: None.

**Effective Date**: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

9002 AMENDMENT

By Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SB 9002** - S COMM AMD **1**

By Committee on Education

On page 1, line 16, after “policy” insert “following the recommendation of a committee of teachers, students, and community members established by the school board to determine appropriate policy.”

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|  | EFFECT: Requires that school boards form a committee of teacher, student, and parent stakeholders to establish uniform guidelines, to be adopted by the school board. |

**--- END ---**

9002 AMENDMENT

By Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SB 9002** - S COMM AMD **2**

By Committee on Education

On page 2, line 8, after “subject to”, strike all material through "unexcused." on line 15 and insert “discipline at the discretion of the school administration, based on frequency and severity of the infraction.”

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|  | EFFECT: Allows individual schools to determine and implement their own disciplinary measures for uniform policy infractions. |

**--- END ---**

9002 AMENDMENT

By Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SB 9002** - S COMM AMD **3**

By Committee on Education

On page 2, line 3, after “religion,” insert “culture,”

On page 2, line 6, after "religion," insert "culture,"

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| --- | --- |
|  | EFFECT: Prohibits school uniform policies that discriminate on the basis of culture, as well as sex, gender, religion, or physical condition. |

**--- END ---**

9002 AMENDMENT

By Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SB 9002** - S COMM AMD **4**

By Committee on Education

On page 1, line 17, after "(2)" insert "The school board must establish a procedure for notifying families of changes to the school uniform policy.

(3)”

Renumber the remaining subsections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

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|  | EFFECT: Requires school boards to create a notification policy to inform families of changes to uniform requirements. |

**--- END ---**

**Mock Role Sheet**

**SB 9002 – School Uniforms**

**Committee:** Education

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Study the bill, listen to and ask questions of lobbyists, propose amendments, vote on the bill and amendments*

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| --- | --- |
| **Majority Party** | **Minority Party** |
| Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Presides over the committee and majority caucus, decides how the meeting will run*  Vice Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Assists the chair, proposes motions*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Ranking Member\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *Leads minority caucus*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**PRIME SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Testifies first at the hearing, as the legislator who proposed the bill*

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| **LOBBYISTS**  *Research their position on the bill and attempt to persuade legislators, by testifying at the hearing and lobbying*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Pro** | **Con** | | *Support passing the bill*  Concerned parent  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_School principal/counselor  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student in favor of uniforms  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_National clothing retailer (Walmart, Sears)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | *Oppose passing the bill*  Local teen clothing store owner  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerned parent  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student opposed to uniforms  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ACLU  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | |  |  |  |
| **With Concerns**  *Oppose the bill in its current form, but might support with amendments addressing problems* | | | |  |  |  |
| Religious group with clothing requirements  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |