SYNOPSIS
Includes electronic communication in definition of public school "harassment, intimidation or bullying."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on June 14, 2007, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2007)
AN ACT concerning harassment and bullying prevention in public
school districts and amending and supplementing P.L.2002, c.83.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. Section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14) is amended to
read as follows:
  2. As used in this act:
"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted
by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a
telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager;
"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication
that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual
or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry,
national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and
expression, or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, or by any
other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school
property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus and
that:
  a. a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances,
will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's
property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his
person or damage to his property; or
  b. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group
of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or
substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.
(cf: P.L.2002, c.83, s.2)

2. (New section) a. A school district's policy on prohibiting
harassment, intimidation or bullying adopted pursuant to section 3
of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-15), shall be amended, if necessary, to
reflect the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the
Legislature as this bill. The district shall transmit a copy of the
amended policy to the appropriate county superintendent of schools.
Notice of the amended policy shall appear in any publication of the
school district that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures
and standards of conduct for schools within the school district, and
in any student handbook.
  b. In the event that a school district's policy on prohibiting
harassment, intimidation or bullying adopted pursuant to section 3
of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-15) does not accord with the
provisions of subsection a. of this section by the '30th' day

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [ thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 14, 2007.
following the effective date of this act, the district’s existing policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying shall be deemed to include an “electronic communication” as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.