



SENATOR YVONNE WILSON

District 9 –

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Sen. Yvonne Wilson's Bill Aimed at Curbing Cyberbullies Heads to the Full Senate

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Yvonne Wilson, D-Kansas City, is sponsoring a bill that could see its first floor action next week.

Senate Bill 762 seeks to expand the definition of the word “bullying” in a school setting. Sen. Wilson’s bill would include electronic communications and cyberbullying via e-mails and instant messages. In recent years, law enforcement agencies have been investigating a growing number of these incidents. An incident near St. Louis last year resulted in the death of a teenage girl. Prosecutors say they have no recourse in that case, because the law doesn’t address it.

“I am troubled by cyberbullying and growing violence on school campuses,” Sen. Wilson said. “After filing this bill last year, I’m pleased to see others joining me in sponsoring this bill this year.”

Sen. Wilson’s bill would leave exact wording of school policy up to each individual district. Senate Bill 762 would also require districts to have the policy language in place by September 1st.

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Over the past several months, a committee has been meeting to look into cyberbullying and other school violence. The group included public safety officials,

prosecutors, lawmakers, and concerned parents. They took hours of testimony before creating their plan of action for lawmakers.

“This is my top priority for the session.” Sen. Wilson adds, “Students and teachers alike should feel safe and at ease every day they’re in school. Our bill will help ensure that happens everywhere in Missouri.”

You can also learn more about cyberbullying and how to help prevent it by going on Sen. Wilson’s website – <http://www.senate.mo.gov/Wilson> - and clicking on the “Having trouble with bullying?” tab.

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