

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 255

March 26, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives JENSEN, COLON, GROTHMAN, SUDER, POWERS, LADWIG, STONE, KRAWCZYK, URBAN, OWENS, RILEY, NASS, SYKORA, KEDZIE and VRAKAS, cosponsored by Senators BURKE, SCHULTZ, DARLING and WELCH. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to create** 118.035 of the statutes; **relating to:** school uniforms.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law authorizes a school board to adopt rules pertaining to the dress of pupils. This bill specifically authorizes a school board to adopt a policy that requires all pupils enrolled in the school district, or all pupils enrolled in one or more schools in the school district (including pupils enrolled in charter schools located in the school district other than charter schools operated by or under contract with the city of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee or Milwaukee Area Technical College), to wear a uniform while in school or under the supervision of a school authority. If a school board adopts such a policy, it must allow a parent or guardian to exempt his or her child from the policy, it must ensure that no pupil is penalized academically or otherwise discriminated against because the pupil's parent or guardian has chosen to exempt the pupil from the policy, it must give parents and guardians at least three months' notice before implementing the policy, and it must assist economically disadvantaged pupils to obtain the uniforms.

The bill specifies that the requirement to adopt a policy does not apply to any school board that has in effect on the date on which this bill becomes law a school uniform policy and has had such a policy in effect continuously since that date.

Finally, the bill also directs the department of public instruction to report to the legislature by July 1, 2005. The report must address all of the following issues:

1. Methods of encouraging the involvement of parents and guardians in a school board's decision to require school uniforms.
2. The ability of pupils to purchase the uniforms.

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3. The effect of the imposition of the requirement on crime in school, and on pupil suspensions and expulsions.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 118.035 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **118.035 School uniforms. (1)** In this section, “school” means a public school
3 and includes a charter school other than a charter school under s. 118.40 (2r).

4 **(2)** A school board may adopt a policy that requires all pupils enrolled in school
5 in the school district, or all pupils enrolled in one or more schools in the school
6 district, to wear a uniform while in school or while under the supervision of a school
7 authority.

8 **(3)** If a school board adopts a policy under sub. (2), it shall do all of the following:

9 **(a)** Establish a method whereby the parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in
10 a school in which the policy is in effect may exempt his or her child from complying
11 with the policy.

12 **(b)** Ensure that no pupil is penalized academically or otherwise discriminated
13 against because the pupil’s parent or guardian has chosen to exempt the pupil from
14 complying with the policy.

15 **(c)** Notify each parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in a school in which the
16 policy will be implemented of the policy at least 3 months before the school board
17 implements the policy.

18 **(d)** Assist economically disadvantaged pupils to obtain the uniforms.

19 **(4)** The requirements under sub. (3) do not apply to any school board that has
20 in effect on the effective date of this subsection [revisor inserts date], a school

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1 uniform policy for pupils enrolled in a school in the school district and has had such
2 a policy in effect continuously since that date.

3 **(5)** By July 1, 2005, the department shall submit a report to the appropriate
4 standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3). The report shall address
5 all of the following issues relating to the imposition of school uniforms by school
6 boards:

7 (a) Methods of encouraging the involvement of the parents or guardians of
8 pupils enrolled in a school district in a school board's decision to require school
9 uniforms.

10 (b) The ability of pupils to obtain the uniforms.

11 (c) The effect of the imposition of the requirement on crime in the school,
12 including weapons possession, assault, battery, and vandalism, and on pupil
13 suspensions and expulsions.

14 **(6)** Nothing in this section affects the authority of a school board to require
15 pupils to wear uniforms for extracurricular activities, and the provisions of sub. (3)
16 do not apply to such a requirement.

17 **(END)**