

HB 297 -- STUDENT DISCIPLINE FOR SIMULATING A WEAPON

SPONSOR: Kelley

This bill prohibits the imposition of any criminal or civil penalty, fine, or discipline of any nature on a public school student for simulating a weapon while playing, including brandishing a food item; possessing a toy firearm less than two inches long; using the hand or fingers to simulate a weapon; vocalizing an imaginary weapon; using a pen, pencil, or other writing instrument to simulate a weapon; or drawing or possessing an image of a weapon.

Public school students may wear clothing and accessories depicting a weapon or express opinions regarding the right to bear arms or the right of self defense unless the actions or speech are properly restricted by a viewpoint-neutral school policy applying equally to all students.

These provisions cannot prohibit civil or criminal penalties, fines, or discipline imposed for acts of simulating a weapon that cause bodily harm to another individual, disrupt the student learning environment, or constitute a serious threat which reasonably places another person in fear of bodily harm.