

HB 441 -- CRONKITE NEW VOICES ACT

SPONSOR: Corlew

This bill establishes the "Cronkite New Voices Act" and defines "school sponsored media," "student journalist," and "student media advisor."

The act provides that a student journalist has a right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media.

These provisions do not apply to content that is libelous or slanderous; constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy; violates federal or state law; or creates a clear and present danger of the commission of an unlawful act, the violation of school district policy, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

This bill does not prevent the teaching of professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists by a student media advisor.

The bill requires each school district to adopt a written student freedom of expression policy which must include reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of student expression. The policy may include restrictions on speech that may be defined as profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating.

The above provisions apply to public institutions of higher education as well as school districts.

This bill is similar to HB 2058 (2016).