



# Office of the City Clerk

City Hall  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
Room 107  
Chicago, IL 60602  
[www.chicityclerk.com](http://www.chicityclerk.com)

## Legislation Text

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File #: SO2017-8242, Version: 1

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### SUBSTITUTE ORPINANE

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is a home rule unit of government pursuant to the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6(a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule power, the City of Chicago may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs including the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, harassment and intimidation have no place in the education and professional settings that we strive to protect; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of social media is a double edged sword, not only allowing for a more accurate reflection of the scope of the issue but in many cases, amplifying the impact of this behavior; and

WHEREAS, an unequivocal stance against this behavior is overdue; and

WHEREAS, bullying among youth is an issue with which schools have long grappled; and

WHEREAS, the discourse has moved from playgrounds to legislative chambers; and

WHEREAS, Newsweek Magazine reported on October 13, 2017 that cities in New York and Wisconsin have passed measures that criminalize bullying; and

WHEREAS, under the ordinances passed in North Tonawanda, New York, and Shawano, Wisconsin, parents face repercussions of fines or jail time for instances of bullying; and

WHEREAS, Newsweek further reported that more than two-thirds of adolescents from more than 18 countries reported being bullied in 2016 and also cited a 2016 American Academy of Pediatrics report which found that bullying and cyberbullying contributed to teen suicide; and

WHEREAS, that bullying does not end with adulthood is reflected in the impetus for anti-harassment ordinances like those enacted in Seattle, Washington, and the City of Lakewood, Colorado as well as in criminal codes throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, this City Council seeks to offer more accessible redress to individuals who may be subject to this form of abuse on a near constant basis and for whom seeking criminal sanctions is a remote or inaccessible recourse; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to ensure that individuals are free to pursue basic rights and privileges free from arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory intimidation tactics; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 8-4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by inserting Section 8-4-084, as follows:

8-4-084      Bullying and Harassment.

(a) Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

"Bullying" is a form of harassment and is defined as an intentional act that causes harm to others that may involve verbal harassment, verbal or non-verbal threats, physical assault, stalking, or other methods of coercion which is reasonably likely to intimidate, emotionally abuse, slander, threaten or intimidate another person .

"Harassment" means an unwanted and hurtful action which can include unwelcome conduct such as verbal abuse, graphic or written statements, threats, physical assault, sexual advances, request for sexual favors, conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct that is threatening or humiliating related to the person's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or national origin.

b) Prohibition. No person shall engage in any bullying or harassment of a person or induce another person to engage in such bullying or harassment.

c) Penalties. Any person who shall violate any provision of this section shall be fined not less than \$100 but not more than \$250 for a first offense. Any subsequent violation shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$250 but not more than \$500.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effective on January 1, 2018.

Marty Quinn Alderman, 13<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Raymond Lopez Alderman, 15<sup>th</sup> Ward

Derrick Curtis  
Alderman, 18<sup>th</sup> Ward

Jason Ervin  
Alderman, 28<sup>th</sup> Ward

Scott Waguespack  
Alderman, 32<sup>nd</sup> Ward

Margaret Laurino  
Alderman, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward

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CHICAGO November 8.2017

**To the President and Members of the City Council:**

**Your Committee on Finance having had under consideration**

A ~~proposed~~ ordinance concerning the authority to amend Chapter 8-4 of the Municipal Code of Chicago regarding sexual harassment and bullying.

Direct Introduction

Having had the same under advisement, begs leave to report and recommend that your Honorable Body pass the proposed. Ordinance Transmitted Herewith.

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**This recommendation was concurred in by  
of members of the committee with**

**(a(nva voce vote)  
disennng~vote(s)T<sup>^^</sup>**

**Chairman**

**Respectfully submitted**