
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5542

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL AND SIMPLE TRESPASS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS OR IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

SUMMARY

This bill specifies that when a person commits 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree or simple trespass on any premises, building, public land, or state institution, these locations include school grounds and any parking lot, athletic field, or school building on the grounds.

Under the law, one form of 1st degree trespass happens when a person, without license or privilege, enters or remains on public land after an order to not do so from an authorized state or municipal official. The bill explicitly states that an authorized official of a local or regional board of education could also have (1) ordered the person not to enter or (2) ordered the person to leave, for the purpose of determining whether the person committed 1st degree trespass.

By law, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree trespass are misdemeanor crimes and simple trespass is an infraction (violations are paid or resolved through the judicial branch's Centralized Infractions Bureau).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/30/2026)