

By: Representatives Bell (65th), Dortch,
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To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO PREPARE A SCHOOL
2 SAFETY PLAN TO HELP CURB THE GROWING INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE IN
3 SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE PLANS TO ADDRESS PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL
4 DISASTERS, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OR RADIOLOGICAL ACCIDENTS, ACTS OF
5 VIOLENCE, INCLUDING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS, FORCEFUL INTRUSIONS,
6 HOSTAGE SITUATIONS AND ACTS OF TERRORISM; TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL
7 BOARDS TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE
8 DEVELOP OF ITS SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN; TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI
9 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE
10 TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO
11 REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT A MINIMUM OF ONE EMERGENCY LAW
12 ENFORCEMENT DRILL PER SEMESTER TO ADDRESS AN ACTIVE SHOOTER
13 INCIDENT, FORCEFUL INTRUSION, HOSTAGE SITUATION OR TERRORISTIC
14 THREAT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO AN INCIDENT INVOLVING AN
15 ACTIVE SHOOTER OR TERRORIST WITHIN A SCHOOL BUILDING; TO REQUIRE
16 SCHOOLS TO UTILIZE EVERY EFFORT TO CONDUCT AN EMERGENCY LAW
17 ENFORCEMENT DRILL UNDER THIS SUBSECTION NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS
18 AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-3-83
19 AND 37-11-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND
20 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

22 **SECTION 1.** (1) In compliance with requirements for school
23 safety plans under Section 37-3-83, every public school board
24 shall prepare a school safety plan to help curb the growing
25 incidence of violence in schools, to respond effectively to such
26 incidents, and to provide a safe learning environment for
27 Mississippi's children, teachers, and other school personnel. The



28 plan shall also address preparedness for natural disasters,
29 hazardous materials or radiological accidents, acts of violence,
30 including active shooter incidents, forceful intrusions, hostage
31 situations and acts of terrorism. School safety plans of public
32 schools shall be prepared with input from students enrolled in
33 that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers
34 in that school, community leaders, other school employees and
35 school district employees, and local law enforcement, fire
36 department, public safety and emergency management agencies. As
37 part of such plans, school boards shall provide for the
38 coordination with local law enforcement agencies. School safety
39 plans shall include, at a minimum, the following strategy areas:

40 (a) Training school administrators, teachers and
41 support staff, including, but not limited to, school resource
42 officers, security officers, secretaries, custodians and bus
43 drivers, on school violence prevention, school security, school
44 threat assessment, mental health awareness and school emergency
45 planning best practices;

46 (b) Evaluating and refining school security measures;

47 (c) Updating and exercising school emergency
48 preparedness plans;

49 (d) Strengthening partnerships with public safety
50 officials; and

51 (e) Creating enhanced crisis communications plans and
52 social media strategies. School safety plans of private schools



53 may be prepared with input from students enrolled in that school,
54 parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers in that
55 school, other school employees, and local law enforcement, fire
56 service, public safety and emergency management agencies. In
57 addition to submission to the State Department of Education, the
58 plans of public schools shall be submitted to the local emergency
59 management agency and the local law enforcement agency for
60 approval.

61 (2) The Mississippi Emergency Management and Homeland
62 Security Agency shall provide training and technical assistance to
63 public school districts, and may provide this same training and
64 technical assistance to private school districts and independent
65 private schools throughout this state in the area of emergency
66 management and safe school operations. This training and
67 technical assistance shall include, but not be limited to, crisis
68 response team development, site surveys and safety audits, crisis
69 management planning, exercise design, safe school planning,
70 emergency operations planning, search and seizure, bomb threat
71 management and model school safety plans.

72 (3) During each academic year, schools must conduct a
73 minimum of one (1) emergency law enforcement drill per semester to
74 address an active shooter incident, forceful intrusion, hostage
75 situation or terroristic threat, including, but not limited to an
76 incident involving an active shooter or terrorist within a school
77 building. The drills must be conducted according to the school



78 district's adopted school safety plan, with the participation of
79 the appropriate law enforcement agency and other emergency
80 responders. The drills must be conducted on days and times when
81 students are present in the school building, and must be conducted
82 at each school in the school district. A school must utilize
83 every effort to conduct an emergency law enforcement drill under
84 this subsection no later than thirty (30) days after the first day
85 of the school year.

86 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
87 amended as follows:

88 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State
89 Department of Education, using only existing staff and resources,
90 a School Safety Grant Program, available to all eligible public
91 school districts, to assist in financing programs to provide
92 school safety. However, no monies from the Temporary Assistance
93 for Needy Families grant may be used for the School Safety Grant
94 Program.

95 (2) The school board of each school district, with the
96 assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety
97 Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district school
98 safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis.

99 (3) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the
100 School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following
101 specific preventive services, and other additional services



102 appropriate to the most current school district school safety
103 plan:

104 (a) Metal detectors;

105 (b) Video surveillance cameras, communications
106 equipment and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school
107 buildings, school grounds and school buses;

108 (c) Crisis management/action teams responding to school
109 violence;

110 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution
111 training, and other appropriate training designated by the State
112 Department of Education for faculty and staff; and

113 (e) School safety personnel.

114 (4) Each local school district of this state may annually
115 apply for school safety grant funds subject to appropriations by
116 the Legislature. School safety grants shall include a base grant
117 amount plus an additional amount per student in average daily
118 attendance in the school or school district. The base grant
119 amount and amount per student shall be determined by the State
120 Board of Education, subject to specific appropriation therefor by
121 the Legislature. In order to be eligible for such program, each
122 local school board desiring to participate shall apply to the
123 State Department of Education by May 31 before the beginning of
124 the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the department,
125 and shall be required to establish a local School Safety Task
126 Force to involve members of the community in the school safety



127 effort. The State Department of Education shall determine by July
128 1 of each succeeding year which local school districts have
129 submitted approved applications for school safety grants.

130 (5) As part of the School Safety Grant Program, the State
131 Department of Education may conduct a pilot program to research
132 the feasibility of using video camera equipment in the classroom
133 to address the following:

134 (a) Determine if video cameras in the classroom reduce
135 student disciplinary problems;

136 (b) Enable teachers to present clear and convincing
137 evidence of a student's disruptive behavior to the student, the
138 principal, the superintendent and the student's parents; and

139 (c) Enable teachers to review teaching performance and
140 receive diagnostic feedback for developmental purposes.

141 (6) Any local school district may use
142 audio/visual-monitoring equipment in classrooms, hallways,
143 buildings, grounds and buses for the purpose of monitoring school
144 disciplinary problems.

145 (7) As a component of the comprehensive local school
146 district school safety plan required under subsection (2) of this
147 section, the school board of a school district may adopt and
148 implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, to be
149 known as "Erin's Law Awareness." Any policy adopted under this
150 subsection may include or address, but need not be limited to, the
151 following:



152 (a) Methods for increasing teacher, student and
153 parental awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children,
154 including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a
155 child may be a victim of sexual abuse;

156 (b) Educational information for parents or guardians,
157 which may be included in the school handbook, on the warning signs
158 of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance,
159 referral or resource information;

160 (c) Training for school personnel on child sexual
161 abuse;

162 (d) Age-appropriate curriculum for students in
163 prekindergarten through fifth grade;

164 (e) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual
165 abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention;

166 (f) Counseling and resources available for students
167 affected by sexual abuse; and

168 (g) Emotional and educational support for a child who
169 has been abused to enable the child to be successful in school.

170 (8) As a component of the comprehensive local school
171 district school safety plan required under subsection (2) of this
172 section, the school board of a school district shall adopt and
173 implement a policy addressing active shooters, forceful
174 intrusions, hostage situations and terroristic threats, to be
175 known as "Extreme Emergency Evacuation Guidelines." Any policy



176 adopted under this subsection may include or address, but need not
177 be limited to, the following:

178 (a) The roles, responsibilities and policies of each
179 emergency response entity in responding to an active shooter
180 incident, forceful intrusion, hostage situation or terroristic
181 threat;

182 (b) Pre-assessment and contingency planning that
183 includes identification of potential targets within the
184 jurisdiction school district;

185 (c) Implementation of an Incident Command System (ICS),
186 including emergency protocols for a unified command structure for
187 entities responding to an active shooter incident, forceful
188 intrusion, hostage situation or terroristic threat;

189 (d) Interagency communication issues and needs,
190 including, but not limited to, radio interoperability and
191 establishment of common language, terms and definitions to be used
192 on the scene of an active shooter incident, forceful intrusion,
193 hostage situation or terroristic threat;

194 (e) Identification of resources for responding to an
195 active shooter incident, forceful intrusion, hostage situation or
196 terroristic threat, including, but not limited to, primary and
197 secondary needs and hospitals;

198 (f) Tactical deployment of available resources for
199 responding to an active shooter incident, forceful intrusion,
200 hostage situation or terroristic threat; and



201 (g) Emergency treatment and extraction of persons
202 injured in an active shooter incident, forceful intrusion, hostage
203 situation or terroristic threat.

204 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-11-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
205 amended as follows:

206 37-11-5. It shall be the duty of the principals and teachers
207 in all public school buildings to instruct the pupils in the
208 methods of fire drills and to practice fire drills until all the
209 pupils in the school are familiar with the methods of escape.
210 Such fire drills shall be conducted often enough to keep such
211 pupils well drilled. It shall be the further duty of such
212 principals and teachers to instruct the pupils in all programs of
213 emergency management as may be designated by the State Department
214 of Education, including emergency law enforcement drills to
215 address active shooter incidents, forceful intrusions, hostage
216 situations or terroristic threats on school campuses and within
217 school facilities, as required under Section 1 of this act.

218 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
219 and after July 1, 2019.

