

HOUSE BILL 1446

F1, E4

8lr2951

By: **Delegate Long**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – School Emergency Response Systems – Study**
3 **(Safer Schools Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to conduct a study to
5 determine best practices and procedures for the use and installation of certain
6 emergency response systems in elementary and secondary school systems; requiring
7 the Center to consult with certain entities; requiring the Center to conduct the study
8 in a certain manner; requiring the Center to report its findings and
9 recommendations to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to school safety and school
11 emergency response systems.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That:

14 (a) The Maryland Center for School Safety, established under Title 7, Subtitle 15
15 of the Education Article, shall conduct a study to determine best practices and procedures
16 for the use and installation of emergency response systems designed to prevent, prepare
17 for, respond to, and recover from a manmade or natural disaster or an emergency occurring
18 on elementary and secondary school property.

19 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the
20 Center shall:

21 (1) consult with the State Department of Education, the Interagency
22 Committee on School Construction, State and local law enforcement representatives,
23 emergency preparedness representatives, and local school board representatives;

24 (2) examine national best practices on the use and installation of school
25 emergency response systems;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) review the latest technological advancements of emergency response
2 systems, including infrastructure components designed to promote building physical
3 security and safety;

4 (4) consider the most effective elements of emergency response systems,
5 including:

6 (i) accessible alarm systems;

7 (ii) communication systems to transmit critical information directly
8 to emergency responders;

9 (iii) communication systems to transmit critical information to
10 student and staff emergency contacts;

11 (iv) controlled access or hardened door systems to provide refuge
12 areas; and

13 (v) any other elements deemed critical to school emergency response
14 systems; and

15 (5) make recommendations related to:

16 (i) the standards for a comprehensive model emergency response
17 system recommended for use by each local school system;

18 (ii) the standards for the purchase, installation, and implementation
19 for new school construction; and

20 (iii) the establishment of goals for installation and retrofitting of
21 emergency response systems in existing school facilities.

22 (c) (1) On or before December 1, 2018, the Center shall, in accordance with §
23 2-1246 of the State Government Article, report to the General Assembly the findings and
24 recommendations of the study required under subsection (a) of this section.

25 (2) The Center shall distribute the report to any local stakeholders with an
26 interest in emergency response systems in elementary and secondary schools, including
27 local boards of education.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
29 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2019, this
30 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
31 further force and effect.