



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 416

DATE: February 7, 2024

SPONSOR: Delegates Solomon and Atterbeary

ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means

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POSITION: SUPPORT (Department of Police)

Public Schools – Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements

House Bill 416 prohibits active shooter drills or trainings in local schools from including activities that could be traumatic for students and school personnel. The bill requires school systems to notify parents *prior* to the exercises and directs the schools to provide mental health services for students and personnel who may be traumatized by the simulations. Data must be collected on the effectiveness and psychological impact of the drills on the children and personnel and must then be reported to the Maryland Center for School Safety for further analysis.

Increasingly, the value and effective of active shooter simulations as routine school safety exercises are being called into question as unnecessarily creating heightened anxiety and worry in our schools and communities. In the absence of conclusive evidence that active shooter drills and training are making our schools safer, this bill identifies an important mental health and public safety issue and creates a path forward to address it.

The Montgomery County Department of Police urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report on House Bill 416.