

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1103  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

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**Education - Public Schools - Threat Assessment Report**

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This emergency bill requires each public school in the State to keep a hard copy of (1) the most recent version of the *School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective* report published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), or (2) any similar threat assessment report model developed and published by the FBI in the school. The school principal and each school counselor must keep a hard copy of the report in the school office. If a local school system (LSS) develops an emergency plan, the LSS must distribute the report as a part of any training materials related to the LSS's emergency plan and make the plan available to a school staff member on request.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can comply with the requirements of the bill using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Chapter 30 of 2018, the Maryland Safe to Learn Act, made comprehensive changes designed to improve the safety of the State's public schools. It did not address nonpublic schools. Except as otherwise mentioned, the following provisions of current law were enacted under Chapter 30.

### *School Resource Officers (SROs) and Law Enforcement Coverage*

A school resource officer is defined as (1) a law enforcement officer assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between a local law enforcement agency and a local school system or (2) a Baltimore City School Police Officer, as defined in current law.

By March 1, 2019, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) must develop and submit to Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) for approval of a model training program based on a curriculum developed by MCSS. Each local law enforcement agency must enroll SROs and other school security employees either in (1) the MCSS model training program or (2) a local training program approved by MPTSC that is consistent with the approved curriculum. All SROs and school security employees must complete an approved specialized training program by September 1, 2019.

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, each local school system must annually file a report with MCSS that identifies (1) the public schools that have an SRO assigned and (2) if no SRO is assigned to a public school, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school. This same requirement applied only to public high schools in the 2018-2019 school year. MCSS must submit annual summaries of the SRO/law enforcement coverage reports it receives to the Governor and General Assembly. MCSS must also collect and report annually data on specified incidents of use of force involving SROs or school security employees.

Beginning in fiscal 2020 and each year thereafter, the Governor must include \$10.0 million for the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to meet the SRO/law enforcement coverage requirements. Grants must be made based on the proportion of public schools in each jurisdiction. The Governor's fiscal 2020 budget includes the required funding.

### *Safety Drills for Public Schools*

MSDE, in consultation with the School Safety Subcabinet, may adopt regulations to incorporate developmentally and age-appropriate components of the Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the federal Department of Homeland Security or guidelines developed by the Maryland Active Assailant Work Group into the annual schedule of school safety drills. The Maryland State Department of Education must notify the Governor and the Legislative Policy Committee of any changes to the schedule of drills in regulation. Local school systems must collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to establish policies for responding to an emergency at each public school.

MSDE's 2017 update of its *Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools* recommends carrying out the following five types of drills at least once per year:

- **evacuation:** students and staff are led to the closest and safest way out of the building;
- **reverse evacuation:** students and staff are moved as quickly as possible back into secure buildings and roll is taken;
- **lock-down:** students are instructed to report to the nearest classroom and close and lock all doors and windows;
- **shelter-in-place:** students and staff report to assigned locations; and
- **drop, cover, and hold:** students and staff take cover under a desk, away from windows, cover their eyes, make efforts to protect vital organs, and hold onto desk legs.

State regulations require each local school system to develop and implement an annual schedule for drills for each school that, in addition to fire drills, must include the five types of drills specified above, plus a severe weather drill.

#### *School Safety Grant Program*

Chapter 14 of 2018 created the School Safety Grant program to provide grants to local school systems for security improvements, including:

- secure and lockable doors for every classroom;
- an area of safe refuge in every classroom; and
- surveillance and other security technology for school monitoring purposes.

The Interagency Committee on School Construction administers the program in consultation with the Maryland Center for School Safety. The Governor is required to include \$10.0 million in the annual operating or capital budget that may be used only to make grant awards. Program funding is supplemental to and not instead of funding that would otherwise be appropriated for public school construction projects. The Governor's fiscal 2020 operating budget includes \$10.0 million in pay-as-you-go general funds for the program.

**Background:** The [\*School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective\*](#) report is available to be downloaded at the FBI website. The Department of Legislative Services is not aware of a successor version of this report, produced circa calendar 1999. The threat assessment model recommended in the report was developed in part from the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime 1998 analysis of 18 school-shooting cases around the country. The report states the intent to present a systematic procedure for threat assessment and

intervention designed to be used by educators, mental health professionals, and law enforcement agencies. However, the report indicates that its recommendations may not cover all situations, including the type of threats experienced by some urban schools.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1832 of 2018 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore City Public Schools; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 28, 2019  
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