

HOUSE BILL 515

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By: **Delegates Solomon, D. Jones, Mireku–North, and Vogel**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Active Shooter Safety Drills – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate with an
4 institution of higher education to study the effectiveness and impact of active shooter
5 safety drills by researching and analyzing certain data collected by local school
6 systems; requiring the School Safety Subcabinet to develop best practices for local
7 school systems to increase mental health services for students and school personnel
8 before, during, and after active shooter safety drills; requiring the State Department
9 of Education to adopt regulations to incorporate active shooter safety drills in the
10 annual schedule of drills for local school systems; requiring local school systems to
11 take certain actions regarding active shooter safety drills, including collecting and
12 reporting certain data to the Center, and providing certain notice to parents,
13 students, and school personnel; requiring the Department to develop model content
14 regarding safe firearm storage and requiring local school systems to distribute the
15 model content to parents at the beginning of each school year; and generally relating
16 to active shooter safety drills in public schools.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

18 Article – Education

19 Section 7–1502(a)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2022 Replacement Volume)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Education

24 Section 7–1502(g), 7–1507(a) and (b), and 7–1509

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2022 Replacement Volume)

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

28 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Education

1

2 7–1502.

3 (a) There is a Maryland Center for School Safety.

4 (g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

5 (1) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems,
6 State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools
7 and violence prevention;8 (2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive
9 research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;10 (3) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local
11 school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;12 (4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be
13 used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate
14 intervention before assessed findings become problematic;15 (5) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their
16 school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring
17 purposes to determine the need for:

18 (i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

19 (ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor
20 activity and influence positive relationship building;21 (6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law
22 enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure
23 seamless execution in an emergency event, including:24 (i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support
25 and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;

26 (ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and

27 (iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in
28 emergency response procedures;29 (7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents
30 and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies

1 for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety,
2 and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;

3 (8) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement
4 resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information
5 regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;

6 (9) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control
7 measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and
8 vehicle accidents;

9 (10) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to
10 ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;

11 (11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and
12 individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for
13 student misbehavior;

14 (12) Assist the Department and local school systems:

15 (i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety
16 data systems into one format for public review; and

17 (ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection
18 systems;

19 (13) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design
20 and operation of school facilities;

21 (14) Assist local school systems to identify resources and implement training
22 for students and parents about relationship violence, identifying the signs of unhealthy
23 relationships, and preventing relationship violence;

24 (15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of
25 safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;

26 (16) Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and
27 training for local school systems as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

28 (17) Certify school safety coordinators as required under § 7–1508 of this
29 subtitle;

30 (18) Submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a summary of
31 reports on school resource officer and local law enforcement agency coverage in public
32 schools as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

1 (19) Consult with local school systems on safety evaluations developed
2 under § 7–1510 of this subtitle;

3 (20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under §
4 7–1510 of this subtitle; [and]

5 (21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life–threatening
6 incidents as required under § 7–1510 of this subtitle; AND

7 **(22) COLLABORATE WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO**
8 **STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT OF ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS BY**
9 **RESEARCHING AND ANALYZING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM LOCAL SCHOOL**
10 **SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1509(E)(7) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

11 7–1507.

12 (a) **(1)** On or before September 1, 2018, the Subcabinet shall develop a model
13 policy for the establishment of an assessment team or teams in each local school system.

14 **(2) EACH YEAR, THE SUBCABINET SHALL EVALUATE THE MODEL**
15 **POLICY AND UPDATE IT AS NEEDED.**

16 (b) The model policy developed under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

17 (1) Mechanisms for identifying individuals whose behavior may pose a
18 threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school;

19 (2) Mechanisms for the assessment of student behavior and interventions
20 if student behavior poses a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a
21 public school;

22 (3) Mechanisms for the assessment of the behavior of an individual who is
23 not a student at a public school but who may pose a threat to the safety of an individual
24 attending or working in the public school;

25 (4) Best practices for promoting communication and appropriate responses
26 within a school community, including measures for:

27 (i) Training faculty, administrators, and staff to identify, properly
28 respond to, and report threats or behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety
29 of an individual attending or working in a public school;

30 (ii) Teaching students to identify, and encouraging students to
31 report, behaviors of concern exhibited by their peers or others that may pose a threat to the
32 safety of an individual attending or working in a public school, including sharing thoughts
33 about or plans for engaging in violence at the school; [and]

1 (iii) Increasing outreach to and the awareness of parents and
2 guardians concerning the emotional and social health and well-being of students; AND

3 (IV) INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS
4 AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BEFORE, DURING, AND
5 AFTER ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS;

6 (5) Procedures for members of the school community or others to report
7 behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or
8 working in a public school;

9 (6) Policies regarding anonymous reporting by members of the school
10 community or others of behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety of an
11 individual attending or working in a public school;

12 (7) Guidance for establishing an appropriate number of assessment teams
13 within a local school system that:

14 (i) Shall coordinate among school officials and law enforcement,
15 mental health, and other appropriate entities to monitor and respond to information about
16 behavior, statements, or plans that may pose a threat of violence at a school; and

17 (ii) Shall include individuals with expertise in student counseling,
18 education instruction, school administration, and law enforcement; and

19 (8) Policies for training assessment teams, including training on implicit
20 bias and disability and diversity awareness with specific attention to racial and ethnic
21 disparities.

22 7-1509.

23 (a) The Department, in consultation with the Subcabinet, [may] **SHALL** adopt
24 regulations to incorporate in the annual schedule of drills for each local school system
25 developmentally and age-appropriate components of:

26 (1) The Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the
27 Department of Homeland Security or guidelines; or

28 (2) The active shooter guidelines adopted by the Maryland Active Assailant
29 Work Group established under Executive Order 01.01.2018.08.

30 (b) Drills incorporated into the annual schedule of drills under subsection (a) of
31 this section **SHALL BE DEVELOPMENTALLY AND AGE-APPROPRIATE, AND** may include
32 [developmentally and age-appropriate] procedures for students or school personnel in:

- 1 (1) Securing classrooms;
- 2 (2) Barricading classrooms and school entries;
- 3 (3) Taking refuge in the classroom; and
- 4 (4) When appropriate, escape from the classroom or school.

5 **(C) EXCEPT FOR A VOLUNTARY DRILL OCCURRING AFTER SCHOOL HOURS,**
6 **ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS MAY NOT INCLUDE:**

- 7 **(1) LOUD SOUNDS INTENDED TO IMITATE GUN FIRE OR EXPLOSIONS;**
- 8 **(2) LIVE EXERCISES WITH INDIVIDUALS ROLE-PLAYING AS AN**
9 **ACTIVE SHOOTER OR VICTIM; OR**
- 10 **(3) SIMILAR ACTIVITIES THAT MAY CAUSE THE DRILL TO BE**
11 **TRAUMATIC FOR STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL.**

12 **[(c)] (D)** The Department shall notify the Governor and, in accordance with §
13 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee of proposed
14 changes to regulations that alter the annual schedule of drills as provided under this
15 section.

16 **[(d)] (E)** Each local school system shall **[collaborate]:**

- 17 **(1) COLLABORATE** with the local law enforcement agency to establish
18 policies for responding to an emergency at each public school in the county;
- 19 **(2) PROVIDE PARENTS WITH THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVE**
20 **SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, WHICH**
21 **INCLUDES:**
 - 22 **(I) THE DATE AND TIME OF THE DRILLS;**
 - 23 **(II) THE TYPE OF DRILL THAT WILL OCCUR; AND**
 - 24 **(III) HOW STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DRILL;**
- 25 **(3) ANNOUNCE DRILLS IN ADVANCE TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOL**
26 **PERSONNEL;**
- 27 **(4) NOTIFY PARENTS AFTER A DRILL HAS TAKEN PLACE;**

1 **(5) PROVIDE A MENTAL HEALTH FOLLOW-UP FOR STUDENTS AND**
2 **SCHOOL PERSONNEL AFTER A DRILL;**

3 **(6) (I) IDENTIFY STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO MAY**
4 **REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND AFTER A DRILL, INCLUDING AN**
5 **INDIVIDUAL:**

6 **1. WITH A DISABILITY; OR**

7 **2. WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA; AND**

8 **(II) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND COPING**
9 **STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND**
10 **AFTER A DRILL; AND**

11 **(7) (I) COLLECT DATA ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT OF**
12 **THE DRILLS, INCLUDING REQUESTING FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOL PERSONNEL,**
13 **PARENTS, AND STUDENTS; AND**

14 **(II) REPORT THE DATA AND FINDINGS TO THE CENTER.**

15 **(F) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
16 **DEVELOP MODEL CONTENT THAT INFORMS PARENTS OF THE STATE'S FIREARM**
17 **STORAGE LAWS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFE FIREARM STORAGE.**

18 **(II) EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EVALUATE THE**
19 **MODEL CONTENT AND UPDATE IT AS NEEDED.**

20 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH THE CENTER, THE**
21 **DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE, LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS, AND CIVIL RIGHTS**
22 **GROUPS IN DEVELOPING THE MODEL CONTENT.**

23 **(3) AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL**
24 **SYSTEM SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE MODEL CONTENT TO THE PARENTS.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2023.