

HOUSE BILL 515

F1

3lr1220

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

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate with an
4 institution of higher education or a designated federal or national research entity to
5 study the effectiveness and psychological impact of active shooter safety drills or
6 trainings by researching and analyzing certain data collected by local school systems;
7 ~~requiring the School Safety Subcabinet to develop best practices for local school~~
8 ~~systems to increase mental health services for students and school personnel before,~~
9 ~~during, and after active shooter safety drills;~~ requiring the Center to identify best
10 practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings by a certain date and
11 periodically thereafter; authorizing the State Department of Education to adopt
12 regulations to incorporate active shooter safety drills or trainings in the annual
13 schedule of drills for local school systems; requiring the Department to annually
14 review the best practices identified by the Center regarding active shooter safety
15 drills and update the drills and trainings incorporated into the annual schedule of
16 drills; requiring local school systems to take certain actions regarding active shooter
17 safety drills or trainings, including collecting and reporting certain data to the
18 Center, and providing certain notice to parents, students, and school personnel;
19 ~~requiring the Department~~ Center to develop model content regarding the State's
20 laws on safe firearm storage and requiring local school systems to distribute the
21 model content to parents at the beginning of each school year; and generally relating
22 to active shooter safety drills or trainings in public schools.

23 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

24 Article – Education

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 7-1502(a)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2022 Replacement Volume)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
5 Article – Education
6 Section 7-1502(g), ~~7-1507(a) and (b)~~, and 7-1509
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2022 Replacement Volume)

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article – Education**

12 7-1502.

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

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

15 (1) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems,
16 State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools
17 and violence prevention;

18 (2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive
19 research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;

20 (3) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local
21 school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;

22 (4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be
23 used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate
24 intervention before assessed findings become problematic;

25 (5) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their
26 school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring
27 purposes to determine the need for:

28 (i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

29 (ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor
30 activity and influence positive relationship building;

31 (6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law
32 enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure
33 seamless execution in an emergency event, including:

- 1 (i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support
2 and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;
- 3 (ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and
- 4 (iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in
5 emergency response procedures;
- 6 (7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents
7 and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies
8 for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety,
9 and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;
- 10 (8) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement
11 resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information
12 regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;
- 13 (9) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control
14 measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and
15 vehicle accidents;
- 16 (10) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to
17 ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;
- 18 (11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and
19 individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for
20 student misbehavior;
- 21 (12) Assist the Department and local school systems:
- 22 (i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety
23 data systems into one format for public review; and
- 24 (ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection
25 systems;
- 26 (13) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design
27 and operation of school facilities;
- 28 (14) Assist local school systems to identify resources and implement training
29 for students and parents about relationship violence, identifying the signs of unhealthy
30 relationships, and preventing relationship violence;
- 31 (15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of
32 safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;

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

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

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

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

10 (20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under §
11 7–1510 of this subtitle; [and]

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

14 **(22) COLLABORATE WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR**
15 **A DESIGNATED FEDERAL OR NATIONAL RESEARCH ENTITY TO STUDY THE**
16 **EFFECTIVENESS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS**
17 **OR TRAININGS BY RESEARCHING AND ANALYZING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM**
18 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ~~§ 7–1509(E)(7)~~ § 7–1509(F) OF THIS**
19 **SUBTITLE; AND**

20 **(23) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2023, IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR**
21 **ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS, AND PERIODICALLY UPDATING**
22 **THOSE IDENTIFICATIONS USING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM LOCAL SCHOOL**
23 **SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1509(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

24 ~~7–1507.~~

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

27 ~~(2) EACH YEAR, THE SUBCABINET SHALL EVALUATE THE MODEL~~
28 ~~POLICY AND UPDATE IT AS NEEDED.~~

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

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

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

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

7 ~~(4) Best practices for promoting communication and appropriate responses~~
8 ~~within a school community, including measures for:~~

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

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

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

18 ~~(IV) INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS~~
19 ~~AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BEFORE, DURING, AND~~
20 ~~AFTER ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS;~~

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

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

27 ~~(7) Guidance for establishing an appropriate number of assessment teams~~
28 ~~within a local school system that:~~

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

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

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

7–1509.

(a) ~~(1)~~ **THE SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Department, in consultation with the Subcabinet, ~~[may]~~ ~~SHALL~~ adopt regulations to incorporate in the annual schedule of drills for each local school system developmentally and age-appropriate components of:

~~(1)~~ **(I)** The Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the Department of Homeland Security or guidelines; or

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

(2) ITEMS INCORPORATED INTO THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF DRILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY TAKE THE FORM OF A TRAINING RATHER THAN A DRILL.

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

(1) Securing classrooms;

(2) Barricading classrooms and school entries;

(3) Taking refuge in the classroom; and

(4) When appropriate, escape from the classroom or school.

(C) BEFORE THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR, AND BEFORE EACH SCHOOL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE BEST PRACTICES FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS IDENTIFIED BY THE CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1502(G) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND UPDATE ANY DRILLS AND TRAININGS THAT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF DRILLS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO REFLECT THOSE BEST PRACTICES.

~~(e)~~ **(D) EXCEPT FOR A VOLUNTARY DRILL OR TRAINING OCCURRING AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS MAY NOT INCLUDE:**

1 **(1) LOUD SOUNDS INTENDED TO IMITATE GUN FIRE OR EXPLOSIONS;**

2 **(2) LIVE EXERCISES WITH INDIVIDUALS ROLE-PLAYING AS AN**
3 **ACTIVE SHOOTER OR VICTIM; OR**

4 **(3) SIMILAR ACTIVITIES THAT MAY CAUSE THE DRILL OR TRAINING**
5 **TO BE TRAUMATIC FOR STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL.**

6 **[(c)] ~~(D)~~ (E)** The Department shall notify the Governor and, in accordance with §
7 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee of proposed
8 changes to regulations that alter the annual schedule of drills as provided under this
9 section.

10 **[(d)] ~~(E)~~ (F)** Each local school system shall [collaborate]:

11 **(1) COLLABORATE** with the local law enforcement agency to establish
12 policies for responding to an emergency at each public school in the county;

13 **(2) PROVIDE PARENTS WITH THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVE**
14 **SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR,**
15 **WHICH INCLUDES:**

16 **(I) ~~THE DATE AND TIME OF THE DRILLS~~ MONTH IN WHICH THE**
17 **DRILLS OR TRAININGS WILL OCCUR;**

18 **(II) THE TYPE OF DRILL OR TRAINING THAT WILL OCCUR; AND**

19 **(III) HOW STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DRILL OR**
20 **TRAINING;**

21 **(3) ANNOUNCE DRILLS OR TRAININGS IN ADVANCE TO STUDENTS AND**
22 **SCHOOL PERSONNEL;**

23 **(4) NOTIFY PARENTS AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING HAS TAKEN**
24 **PLACE;**

25 **(5) PROVIDE A MENTAL HEALTH FOLLOW-UP FOR STUDENTS AND**
26 **SCHOOL PERSONNEL AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING;**

27 **(6) (I) IDENTIFY STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO MAY**
28 **REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING,**
29 **INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL:**

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

