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HOUSE BILL NO. 2171

Offered January 9, 2013

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school safety audits; school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans.*

Patrons—McQuinn and Kory

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required.**

A. For the purposes of this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

"School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities. The plan shall include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01. The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be the lead coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan shall also contain current contact information for both agencies.

"School safety audit" means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (i) identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues, and (ii) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for student conduct.

B. The Virginia Center for School Safety shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Such items shall include those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to § 22.1-279.3:1.

The Virginia Center for School Safety shall prescribe a standardized report format for school safety audits, additional reporting criteria, and procedures for report submission, which may include instructions for electronic submission.

Each local school board shall require all schools under its supervisory control to ~~annually~~ *bimonthly* conduct school safety audits as defined in this section and consistent with such list.

The results of such school safety audits shall be made public within ~~90~~ *30* days of completion. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of § 2.2-3705.2. Each school shall maintain a copy of the school safety audit, which may exclude such security plans and vulnerability assessment components, within the office of the school principal and shall make a copy of such report available for review upon written request.

Each school shall submit a copy of its school safety audit to the relevant school division superintendent. The division superintendent shall collate and submit all such school safety audits, in the prescribed format and manner of submission, to the Virginia Center for School Safety.

C. The school board may establish a school safety audit committee to consist of representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement agencies, judicial and public safety personnel, and the community at large. The school safety audit committee shall evaluate, in accordance with the directions of the local school board, the safety of each school and submit a plan for improving school safety at a public meeting of the local school board.

D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition

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59 provided in this section. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety shall
60 provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the
61 school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the
62 components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency
63 medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening
64 emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board shall
65 ~~annually~~ *bimonthly* review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency
66 response plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit the review of any
67 security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of
68 § 2.2-3705.2. The local school division superintendent shall certify ~~this~~ *each* review in writing to the
69 Virginia Center on School Safety no later than ~~August 31 of each year~~ *the last day of the subsequent*
70 *month*.

71 Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for School
72 Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall develop, and may
73 revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency
74 response plan for the purpose of assisting the public schools in Virginia in developing viable, effective
75 crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Such model shall set forth
76 recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can contact the relevant school or
77 school division regarding the location and safety of their school children and by which school officials
78 may contact parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or emergency.