

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 9.1-184 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Center for School*
3 *Safety; bullying.*

4 [H 1187]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 9.1-184 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 9.1-184. Virginia Center for School Safety created; duties.**9 A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School Safety (the Center) is
10 hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:11 1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based
12 antibullying tactics *based on the definition of bullying in § 22.1-276.01*, and in the effective
13 identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or
14 assistance;15 2. Serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions by conducting research,
16 sponsoring workshops, and providing information regarding current school safety concerns, such as
17 conflict management and peer mediation, bullying *as defined in § 22.1-276.01*, school facility design and
18 technology, current state and federal statutory and regulatory school safety requirements, and legal and
19 constitutional issues regarding school safety and individual rights;20 3. Maintain and disseminate information to local school divisions on effective school safety
21 initiatives in Virginia and across the nation;22 4. Collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety audit
23 information submitted to it pursuant to § 22.1-279.8, collected by the Department;24 5. Encourage the development of partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote
25 school safety in Virginia;26 6. Provide technical assistance to Virginia school divisions in the development and implementation of
27 initiatives promoting school safety, including threat assessment-based protocols with such funds as may
28 be available for such purpose;29 7. Develop a memorandum of understanding between the Director of the Department of Criminal
30 Justice Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure collaboration and coordination of
31 roles and responsibilities in areas of mutual concern, such as school safety audits and crime prevention;32 8. Provide training for and certification of school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101 and
33 consistent with § 9.1-110;34 9. Develop, in conjunction with the Department of State Police, the Department of Behavioral Health
35 and Developmental Services, and the Department of Education, a model critical incident response
36 training program for public school personnel and others providing services to schools that shall also be
37 made available to private schools in the Commonwealth; and38 10. In consultation with the Department of Education, provide schools with a model policy for the
39 establishment of threat assessment teams, including procedures for the assessment of and intervention
40 with students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school staff or students.41 B. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Center and, upon request, assist the
42 Center in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

ENROLLED

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