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SENATE BILL NO. 600

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school safety audits; law-enforcement officers.

Patrons—Pillion and Ruff

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

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 and Campus Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education, 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 and shall include a school inspection walk-through using a standardized checklist provided by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, which shall incorporate crime prevention through environmental design principles.

The Virginia Center for School and Campus 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 conduct school safety audits, as defined in this section ~~and~~, consistent with such list *and in full collaboration with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee*.

The results of such school safety audits shall be made public within 90 days of completion *pursuant to this subsection*. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any security plans, walk-through checklists, and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The completed walk-through checklist shall be made available ~~upon request~~ to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. Each school shall maintain a copy of the school safety audit, which may exclude such security plans, walk-through checklists, 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 and Campus Safety and

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59 shall make available ~~upon request~~ to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality the results of such
60 audits *for his review and approval*.

61 C. The division superintendent shall establish a school safety audit committee to include, if available,
62 representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local
63 community services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee
64 shall review the completed school safety audits and submit any plans, as needed, for improving school
65 safety to the division superintendent for submission to the local school board.

66 D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school
67 crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition
68 provided in this section, and shall include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of
69 the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency
70 medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in
71 the development of such plans. Each school division shall designate an emergency manager. The
72 Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall provide technical
73 assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis,
74 emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the components of a
75 medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services
76 providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and
77 the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board, the chief law-enforcement
78 officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the
79 relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the
80 locality, or their designees, shall annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and
81 medical emergency response plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit
82 the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in
83 subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The local school division superintendent shall certify this review in
84 writing to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety no later than August 31 of each year.

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

93 E. Each school board shall ensure that every public school it supervises employs at least one school
94 administrator who has completed, either in-person or online, school safety training for public school
95 personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with
96 subdivision A 1 of § 9.1-184. However, such requirement shall not apply if such required training is not
97 available online.