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HOUSE BILL NO. 402

House Amendments in [] - January 27, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-137.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public schools; lock-down drills; frequency; exemptions.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Keam

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-137.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-137.2. Lock-down drills.

A. In every public school there shall be a lock-down drill at least twice during the first 20 school days of each school session, in order that students and teachers may be thoroughly practiced in such drills. Every public school [~~at which sixth grade is the highest grade taught~~] shall hold at least ~~two~~ *one* additional lock-down drills ~~during the remainder drill after the first 60 days of the school session [;~~ and every public school at which seventh grade or any grade above seventh grade is taught shall hold at least two additional lock-down drills after the first 60 days of the school session] . Lock-down plans and drills shall be in compliance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (§ 27-94 et seq.)

B. Kindergarten students shall be exempt from mandatory participation in lock-down drills during the first 60 days of the school session. In implementing such exemption, the principal at each relevant school shall either (i) conduct teacher-only drills or otherwise provide suitable training for kindergarten teachers or (ii) notify each parent of a kindergarten student at least five school days in advance of each planned lock-down drill and permit each such parent to opt his child out of participation in such lock-down drill. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, each kindergarten student shall participate in each lock-down drill after the first 60 days of the school session.

ENGROSSED

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