

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 140

4
5 By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE ACT TO
9 PROMOTE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUS SAFETY; TO REQUIRE
10 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE SHOOTER
11 DRILLS AND PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR
12 EMPLOYEES TO PREPARE FOR INCIDENTS OF CAMPUS
13 VIOLENCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16 THE SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE ACT.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The General Assembly
23 finds that:

24 (1) Crime and violence remain issues in Arkansas public schools
25 and nationwide;

26 (2) The citizens of Arkansas have twice experienced the tragedy
27 of a school shooting:

28 (A) In 1997 when two (2) Stamps High School students were
29 shot and wounded by sniper fire from a fellow student; and

30 (B) In 1998 when four (4) students and one (1) teacher
31 were killed at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, and nine (9) more
32 students and one (1) teacher were wounded;

33 (3) In 2007, the National Center for Education Statistics
34 reported that an average of nine and one-tenths percent (9.1%) of Arkansas's
35 public high school students had been threatened or injured with a weapon on
36 school property, compared to the national average of seven and eight-tenths



1 percent (7.8%);

2 (4) Incidents of crime against students are more likely to
3 happen at school than away from school; and

4 (5) With the increasing levels of crime and violence in our
5 schools, school administrators and personnel must be prepared for more than
6 the academic challenges of teaching students. They must also:

7 (A) Develop and maintain a strong partnership with law
8 enforcement; and

9 (B) Be trained to recognize and assume their roles and
10 responsibilities for preventing and responding to acts of violence,
11 terrorism, natural disaster, and other crimes impacting the school
12 environment.

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14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 13, is
15 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

16 6-15-1303. Safe School Initiative Act.

17 (a) A school district shall provide training for all of its employees,
18 and to the extent practicable its students, in preventing and responding to
19 acts of violence, terrorism, and natural disaster, including without
20 limitation:

21 (1) Tornado safety drills under § 6-10-121;

22 (2) Implementation of emergency plans for terrorist attacks
23 under § 6-15-1302; and

24 (3) Annual active shooter drills and school safety assessments
25 in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management
26 personnel.

27 (b) Subject to an appropriation and funding for this purpose, the
28 Criminal Justice Institute shall provide the training and education for:

29 (A) School personnel concerning the active shooter drills
30 required under this section through its Safe Schools Initiative; and

31 (B) Law enforcement officers, emergency management
32 personnel, and other persons who will conduct the school safety assessments
33 and active shooter drills on a school campus under this section.

34 (2)(A) The Safe Schools Initiative training for school personnel
35 shall be hosted by an educational service cooperative of which the school
36 district is a constituent.

1 between school personnel and law enforcement in preventing and responding to
2 acts of violence, terrorism, and natural disaster that occur on public school
3 campuses; and

4 (ii) For law enforcement officers to operate
5 effectively in a school setting.

6 (2) Initiatives of the Criminal Justice Institute for
7 specialized education and training on public school campus safety will
8 enhance citizen cooperation and understanding of law enforcement in these
9 areas and other issues of crime and violence against school children.

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11 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. To provide law
12 enforcement officers and school personnel the opportunity to receive the
13 training and education required under this act, school districts shall
14 implement the annual active shooter drills beginning in the 2014-2015 school
15 year.