| 1 | State of Arkansas | |
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| 2 | 89th General Assembly A Bill | |
| 3 | Regular Session, 2013SENATE BILL | 140 |
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| 5 | By: Senator Irvin | |
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| 7 | 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. | |
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| 16 | Subtitle | |
| 17 | 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 Assemb | <u>ly</u> |
| 23 | finds that: | |
| 24 | (1) Crime and violence remain issues in Arkansas public school | . <u>S</u> |
| 25 | and nationwide; | |
| 26 | (2) The citizens of Arkansas have twice experienced the traged | <u>.y</u> |
| 27 | of a school shooting: | |
| 28 | (A) In 1997 when two (2) Stamps High School students wer | e |
| 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 | <u>L</u> |
| 36 | school property, compared to the national average of seven and eight-tenths | 5 |



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| 1 | percent (7.8%); |
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| 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 | <u>under § 6-15-1302; and</u> |
| 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. |

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| 1 | (B) The Safe Schools Initiative training may also include |
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| 2 | without limitation the training and education needed to assist a public |
| 3 | school in: |
| 4 | (i) Developing prevention strategies and enhance |
| 5 | proactive responses to campus security and safety issues; |
| 6 | (ii) Delivering education to students and faculty on |
| 7 | public safety and legal topics such as drugs and alcohol abuse, sexual |
| 8 | assault, bullying and cyberbullying, gangs, preventing the possession of |
| 9 | weapons by minors, and responding to the threat of weapons at school; |
| 10 | (iii) Preparing school safety assessments and |
| 11 | emergency plans; and |
| 12 | (iv) Cooperating effectively with law enforcement |
| 13 | officers in the school setting. |
| 14 | (3) The following agencies or persons may conduct a school |
| 15 | safety assessment and active shooter drill for a school district after |
| 16 | receiving training from the Criminal Justice Institute: |
| 17 | (A) The Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy; |
| 18 | (B) The Arkansas State Police; |
| 19 | (C) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management; |
| 20 | (D) The Black River Technical College Law Enforcement |
| 21 | Academy; or |
| 22 | (E) Other persons identified on the Criminal Justice |
| 23 | Institute's website as having received the training. |
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| 25 | SECTION 3. Arkansas § 12-9-501, concerning legislative determinations |
| 26 | for the Criminal Justice Institute, is amended to add an additional |
| 27 | subsection to read as follows: |
| 28 | (d)(1) The General Assembly further recognizes that: |
| 29 | (A) Law enforcement plays a significant role in preventing |
| 30 | and responding to acts of violence, terrorism, and natural disasters that |
| 31 | occur on public school campuses; and |
| 32 | (B) Matters of public school campus safety require |
| 33 | specialized education and training for law enforcement officers, school |
| 34 | resource officers, and other school personnel who respond to incidents on |
| 35 | school campuses: |
| 36 | (i) To develop and maintain strong partnerships |

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| 1 | between school personnel and law enforcement in preventing and responding to |
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| 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 10 | areas and other issues of crime and violence against school children. |
| 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. |
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