

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: S2/13/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 140

5 By: Senator Irvin
6

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.
14
15

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.

13
14 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-10-121(b), concerning tornado safety*
15 *drills, is amended to read as follows:*

16 *(b) ~~It shall be the duty of the~~ The Director of the Arkansas*
17 *Department of Emergency Management ~~to~~ shall require all public schools to*
18 *conduct tornado safety drills not less than ~~four~~ (4) three (3) times per year*
19 *in the months of September, ~~October~~, January, and February. *

20
21 *SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 13, is*
22 *amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

23 6-15-1303. Safe School Initiative Act.

24 (a) A school district shall provide *annual training* for all of its
25 employees, and to the extent practicable its students, in preventing and
26 responding to acts of violence, terrorism, and natural disaster, including
27 without limitation:

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

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

31 (3) Annual active shooter drills and school safety assessments
32 in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management
33 personnel for all schools.

34 (b) Subject to an appropriation and funding for this purpose, the
35 Criminal Justice Institute shall provide the *necessary training* and education
36 for:

1 (A) Personnel designated by a school district or an
2 education service cooperative concerning the active shooter drills required
3 under this section through its Safe Schools Initiative; and

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

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

10 (B) The designated personnel who receive the Safe School
11 Initiative training shall train other school employees and students.

12 (C) The Safe School Initiative training may also include
13 without limitation the training and education needed to assist a public
14 school in:

15 (i) Developing prevention strategies and enhance
16 existing crisis management plans for campus security and safety issues;

17 (ii) Delivering education to students and faculty on
18 public safety and legal topics such as drugs and alcohol abuse, sexual
19 assault, bullying and cyberbullying, gangs, preventing the possession of
20 weapons by minors, and responding to the threat of weapons at school;

21 (iii) Preparing school safety assessments; and

22 (iv) Cooperating effectively with law enforcement
23 officers in the school setting.

24 (3) The following agencies or persons may conduct a school
25 safety assessment and active shooter drill for a school district after
26 receiving training from the Criminal Justice Institute:

27 (A) The Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy;

28 (B) The Arkansas State Police;

29 (C) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management;

30 (D) The Black River Technical College Law Enforcement
31 Academy; or

32 (E) Other persons identified on the Criminal Justice
33 Institute's website as having received the training.

34 (4) Annual training and active shooter drills may be conducted
35 during the instructional day or during noninstructional time periods as
36 determined by the school district.

1 (c) Subject to an appropriation and funding for this purpose, each
2 public school, in collaboration with the school district, may install
3 communications equipment that is interoperable with the Arkansas Wireless
4 Information Network system.

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6 SECTION 4. Arkansas § 12-9-501, concerning legislative determinations
7 for the Criminal Justice Institute, is amended to add an additional
8 subsection to read as follows:

9 (d)(1) The General Assembly further recognizes that:

10 (A) Law enforcement plays a significant role in preventing
11 and responding to acts of violence, terrorism, and natural disasters that
12 occur on public school campuses; and

13 (B) Matters of public school campus safety require
14 specialized education and training for law enforcement officers, school
15 resource officers, and other school personnel who respond to incidents on
16 school campuses:

17 (i) To develop and maintain strong partnerships
18 between school personnel and law enforcement in preventing and responding to
19 acts of violence, terrorism, and natural disaster that occur on public school
20 campuses; and

21 (ii) For law enforcement officers to operate
22 effectively in a school setting.

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

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28 SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. To provide law
29 enforcement officers and school personnel the opportunity to receive the
30 training and education required under this act, school districts shall
31 implement the annual active shooter drills beginning in the 2014-2015 school
32 year.

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34 /s/ Irvin