

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 823

5 By: Senator Teague
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY
9 COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10
11

Subtitle

12 TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY
13 COMMISSION.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:
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Subchapter 6 – Public School Safety Commission

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6-1-601. Public School Safety Commission.

24 There is established the "Public School Safety Commission" is created.
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6-1-602. Findings.

27 The General Assembly finds that:
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29 (1) A safe and secure school is vital for a student's academic
30 success and emotional well-being; and

31 (2) Ensuring a safe and secure public school environment for our
32 children is the responsibility of each citizen of Arkansas.
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6-1-603. Purpose.

34 The purpose of the Public School Safety Commission is to serve as a
35 central body to coordinate statewide public school safety efforts, including:
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1 (1) Encouraging school districts to develop school safety
2 policies;

3 (2) Developing model school safety practices for public school
4 districts to implement;

5 (3) Devising a public school safety awareness program for public
6 school students, parents, and staff; and

7 (4) Assisting the Department of Education with the
8 implementation of public school safety efforts recommended by the commission.

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10 6-1-604. Membership.

11 (a) The Public School Safety Commission consists of nine (9) members
12 as follows:

13 (1) The Commissioner of Education;

14 (2) The Director of the Department of Arkansas State Police;

15 (3) The Director of the Division of Youth Services of the
16 Department of Human Services;

17 (4) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of
18 Educational Administrators;

19 (5) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards
20 Association;

21 (6) A representative from Arkansas Advocates for Children and
22 Families;

23 (7) A representative from Arkansas Children's Hospital; and

24 (8) A representative from the Criminal Justice Institute at the
25 University of Arkansas at Little Rock;

26 (9) A representative from the University of Arkansas for Medical
27 Sciences Injury Prevention Center.

28 (b) Any member may appoint a designee to serve in his or her place if
29 necessary.

30 (c)(1) The chair of the commission is elected by majority vote at the
31 first meeting of the commission.

32 (2) All changes in commission chairmanship are decided by
33 majority vote of the commission.

34 (d)(1) The commission shall meet at the times and places that the
35 chair deems necessary but no less than four (4) times per year.

36 (2) Five (5) members of the commission shall constitute a quorum

1 for the purpose of transacting business.

2 (3) All actions of the commission are by quorum.

3 (e) The Department of Education shall staff the commission.

4 (f) All members of the commission may receive expense reimbursement in
5 accordance with § 25-16-902 paid by the Department of Education if funds are
6 available.

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8 6-1-605. Annual report.

9 (a) The chair of the Public School Safety Commission shall provide a
10 report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
11 Education no later than November 1, 2013, and each year thereafter.

12 (b) The report shall identify:

13 (1) Policies adopted by public school districts that address
14 public school safety;

15 (2) Model school safety practices developed by the commission
16 and implemented in public school districts;

17 (3) School safety awareness programs operating statewide,
18 including the number of students participating in school safety awareness
19 programs; and

20 (4) Recommendations for the General Assembly, the Department of
21 Education, and other entities for the purpose of reducing threats to school
22 safety and school violence.