

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 484 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/13/13 S2/19/13 S2/28/13*
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 140

By: Senators Irvin, *Bledsoe, Bookout, Burnett, Caldwell, J. Dismang, J. English, Files, J. Hendren, Hester, J. Hutchinson, D. Johnson, Maloch, B. Pierce, Rapert, D. Sanders, Teague, R. Thompson, E. Williams, D. Wyatt*

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

THE SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE ACT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) In 2007, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that an average of nine and one-tenths percent (9.1%) of Arkansas's



public high school students had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property, compared to the national average of seven and eight-tenths percent (7.8%); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

6-15-1303. Safe School Initiative Act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iii) Preparing school safety assessments; and

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

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

(A) The Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy;

(B) The Arkansas State Police;

(C) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 03/22/2013