

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S3/14/13
A Bill

SENATE BILL 823

By: Senator Teague

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY
COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY
COMMISSION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 1, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 6 – Public School Safety Commission

6-1-601. Public School Safety Commission.

There is established the "Public School Safety Commission" is created.

6-1-602. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) A safe and secure school is vital for a student's academic success and emotional well-being; and

(2) Ensuring a safe and secure public school environment for our children is the responsibility of each citizen of Arkansas.

6-1-603. Purpose.

The purpose of the Public School Safety Commission is to serve as a central body to coordinate statewide public school safety efforts, including:



- (1) Encouraging school districts to develop school safety policies;
- (2) Developing model school safety practices for public school districts to implement;
- (3) Devising a public school safety awareness program for public school students, parents, and staff; and
- (4) Assisting the Department of Education with the implementation of public school safety efforts recommended by the commission.

6-1-604. Membership.

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

- (1) The Commissioner of Education;
- (2) The Director of the Department of Arkansas State Police;
- (3) The Director of the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services;
- (4) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators;
- (5) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards Association;
- (6) A representative from Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families;
- (7) A representative from Arkansas Children's Hospital; and
- (8) The Director of the Criminal Justice Institute;
- (9) A representative from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Injury Prevention Center.

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

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

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

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

(2) Five (5) members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

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

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

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

6-1-605. Annual report.

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

(b) The report shall identify:

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

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

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

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

/s/Teague