

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 178 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY DAY, STAATS, KAVULICH, DRISCOLL, CONKLIN, SAYLOR, O'NEILL, DONATUCCI, D. COSTA, MARSICO, WARD, GABLER, PEIFER AND R. BROWN, JANUARY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 23, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for fire and emergency evacuation drills.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1517 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended to read:

12 Section 1517. Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills.--(a)
13 [In] Except as provided under subsection (a.1), in all [public
14 schools] school buildings of school entities where fire-escapes,
15 appliances for the extinguishment of fires, or proper and
16 sufficient exits in case of fire or panic, either or all, are
17 required by law to be maintained, fire drills shall be
18 periodically conducted, not less than one a month, by the
19 teacher or teachers in charge, under rules and regulations to be

1 promulgated by the [district superintendent] chief school
2 administrator under whose supervision such [schools] school
3 entities are. In such fire drills the pupils and teachers shall
4 be instructed in, and made thoroughly familiar with, the use of
5 the fire-escapes, appliances and exits. The drill shall include
6 the actual use thereof, and the complete removal of the pupils
7 and teachers, in an expeditious and orderly manner, by means of
8 fire-escapes and exits, from the building to a place of safety
9 on the ground outside.

10 (a.1) Within ninety (90) days of the commencement of the
11 school year after the effective date of this subsection and
12 within ninety (90) days of the commencement of each school year
13 thereafter, each school entity shall conduct one school security
14 drill per school year in each school building in place of a fire
15 drill required under subsection (a). All of the following shall
16 apply:

17 (1) The school security drill shall be conducted while the
18 school entity is in session and students are present under
19 policies adopted by the chief school administrator.

20 (2) The chief school administrator or a designee shall
21 oversee the instruction and training of students and school
22 employees in the procedures to be used in the school security
23 drill.

24 (3) The chief school administrator shall notify and request
25 assistance from the local law enforcement agency and emergency
26 management agency before conducting the school security drill.
27 The notification shall include, at a minimum, all of the
28 following:

29 (i) The date and time of the school security drill.

30 (ii) The name and address of the school entity and each

1 building in which the school security drill is to be conducted.

2 (iii) The name of the individual in charge of conducting the
3 school security drill.

4 (4) The chief school administrator shall provide notice of
5 the school security drill in advance to parents and legal
6 guardians of the students attending the school building for
7 which the school security drill is scheduled.

8 (b) [District superintendents] Chief school administrators
9 are hereby required to see that the provisions of this section
10 are faithfully carried out in the [schools] school entities over
11 which they have charge.

12 (c) Any person who violates or fails to comply with the
13 provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and
14 on conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than
15 twenty-five dollars (\$25) nor more than five hundred dollars
16 (\$500), or to undergo imprisonment in the county jail for not
17 less than (10) days or more than sixty (60) days, or both.

18 (d) All [schools] school entities using or contracting for
19 school buses for the transportation of school children shall
20 conduct on school grounds two emergency evacuation drills on
21 buses during each school year, the first to be conducted during
22 the first week of the first school term and the second during
23 the month of March, and at such other times as the chief school
24 administrator may require. Each such drill shall include the
25 practice and instruction concerning the location, use and
26 operation of emergency exit doors and fire extinguishers and the
27 proper evacuation of buses in the event of fires or accidents.

28 Bus operators shall be provided with proper training and
29 instructions to enable them to carry out the provisions of this
30 subsection and may be required to attend classes and drills in

1 connection therewith.

2 (e) On or before the tenth day of April of each year, each
3 [district superintendent] chief school administrator shall
4 certify to the Department of [Public Instruction] Education that
5 the emergency evacuation drills and school security drills
6 herein required have been [held] conducted in accordance with
7 this section.

8 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
9 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

10 "Chief school administrator" shall mean the superintendent of
11 a school district, superintendent of an area vocational-
12 technical school, executive director of an intermediate unit or
13 chief executive officer of a charter school or regional charter
14 school.

15 "School entity" shall mean an area vocational-technical
16 school, school district, intermediate unit, charter school or
17 regional charter school.

18 "School security drill" shall mean a planned exercise, other
19 than a fire drill or natural disaster drill, designed to
20 practice procedures to respond to an emergency situation that
21 may include, but is not limited to, an act of terrorism, armed
22 intruder situation or other violent threat.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.