

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2748 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, READSHAW, J. McNEILL, WARD, KINSEY AND ROEBUCK, OCTOBER 22, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 22, 2018

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 providing for emergency response drills.

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

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

12 Section 1517.1. Emergency Response Drills.--(a) Each school
 13 entity shall administer mandatory emergency response drills for
 14 the students of the school entity. The following apply:

15 (1) Within ninety (90) days of the commencement of the
 16 school year which occurs after the effective date of this
 17 subsection and within ninety (90) days of the commencement of
 18 each school year thereafter, an emergency response drill shall
 19 be conducted within classrooms of a school entity each school
 20 year.

1 (2) Each emergency response drill shall be conducted while
2 the school entity is in session and students are present.

3 (3) The school entity shall adopt policies for emergency
4 response drills within the school entity.

5 (b) During an emergency response drill, students in a school
6 entity shall be instructed on and shall receive practice in all
7 of the following:

8 (1) Recognizing the signs of an emergency situation, such as
9 a medical emergency.

10 (2) Locating the classroom phone.

11 (3) Utilizing the emergency contact list, which shall be
12 posted in a visible location in each classroom and include
13 numbers for school officials.

14 (4) Utilizing a procedure and script for calling contacts on
15 the emergency contact list.

16 (5) Describing their location and the nature of the
17 emergency.

18 (c) Each chief school administrator or a designee shall
19 oversee the instruction and training of students and school
20 employees in the procedures to be followed in the emergency
21 response drill.

22 (d) Each chief school administrator shall provide notice of
23 an emergency response drill in advance to the parents and legal
24 guardians of the students attending the class for which the
25 emergency response drill is scheduled.

26 (e) Each chief school administrator shall take all necessary
27 steps to ensure that the provisions of this section are
28 faithfully carried out in the school entity over which the chief
29 school administrator has charge.

30 (f) On or before April 10 of each year, each chief school

1 administrator shall certify to the Department of Education that
2 the emergency response drills required under this section have
3 been conducted in accordance with this section.

4 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
6 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Chief school administrator" shall mean any of the following:

8 (1) The superintendent of a school district.

9 (2) The superintendent of an area vocational-technical
10 school.

11 (3) The executive director of an intermediate unit.

12 (4) The chief executive officer of a charter school or
13 regional charter school.

14 "Emergency response drill" shall mean a planned exercise,
15 other than a fire drill, natural disaster drill or school
16 security drill, designed to practice procedures in response to
17 an emergency situation that does not require evacuation.

18 "Medical emergency" shall mean an emergency situation that is
19 experienced by a classroom instructor who has become
20 unresponsive or by a student when the classroom instructor is
21 not present. The term includes, but is not limited to, any of
22 the following:

23 (1) Chest pain accompanied by sweating, nausea, vomiting or
24 shortness of breath.

25 (2) Choking.

26 (3) Fainting.

27 (4) A seizure.

28 (5) An injury such as severe bleeding or a broken or
29 dislocated bone.

30 (6) The sudden inability to walk, speak or move a portion of

1 the body.

2 (7) Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing.

3 "School entity" shall mean any of the following:

4 (1) An area vocational-technical school.

5 (2) A school district.

6 (3) An intermediate unit.

7 (4) A charter school.

8 (5) A regional charter school.

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