

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2087 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DAY, STAATS, KAVULICH, D. COSTA, V. BROWN, ROZZI, WARD, READSHAW, FARINA, HAHN, GERGELY, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, SIMMONS, RADER, HARHAI, SCHWEYER, KORTZ, MARSICO, COHEN, PEIFER, WATSON, ZIMMERMAN, DeLUCA, DIAMOND, ELLIS, TRUITT, O'NEILL, QUIGLEY, GROVE, REESE, BARRAR, ORTITAY AND TOOHL, MAY 23, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 23, 2016

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,  
 11 amended January 14, 1970 (1969 P.L.468, No.192), is amended to  
 12 read:

13 Section 1517. Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills.--(a)  
 14 [In] Except as provided under subsection (a.1), in all [public  
 15 schools] school buildings of school entities where fire-escapes,  
 16 appliances for the extinguishment of fires, or proper and  
 17 sufficient exits in case of fire or panic, either or all, are  
 18 required by law to be maintained, fire drills shall be

1 periodically conducted, not less than one a month, by the  
2 teacher or teachers in charge, under rules and regulations to be  
3 promulgated by the [district superintendent] chief school  
4 administrator under whose supervision such [schools] school  
5 entities are. In such fire drills the pupils and teachers shall  
6 be instructed in, and made thoroughly familiar with, the use of  
7 the fire-escapes, appliances and exits. The drill shall include  
8 the actual use thereof, and the complete removal of the pupils  
9 and teachers, in an expeditious and orderly manner, by means of  
10 fire-escapes and exits, from the building to a place of safety  
11 on the ground outside.

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

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

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

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

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

1        (ii) The name and address of the school entity and each  
2 building in which the school security drill is to be conducted.

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

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

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

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

25        Bus operators shall be provided with proper training and  
26 instructions to enable them to carry out the provisions of this  
27 subsection and may be required to attend classes and drills in  
28 connection therewith.

29        (e) On or before the tenth day of April of each year, each  
30 [district superintendent] chief school administrator shall

1 certify to the Department of [Public Instruction] Education that  
2 the emergency evacuation drills and school security drills  
3 herein required have been [held] conducted in accordance with  
4 this section.

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

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

12 "School entity" shall mean area vocational-technical school,  
13 a school district, an intermediate unit, a charter school or a  
14 regional charter school.

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

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