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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 630 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, WARD, SCHWANK, KITCHEN, TEPLITZ,  
SCARNATI, HUGHES, RAFFERTY AND BROWNE, MARCH 13, 2015

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 13, 2015

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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 safe schools, further providing  
6 for the Office of Safe Schools; and providing for school  
7 safety requirements.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1302-A(d)(2) of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
12 amended July 9, 2014 (P.L.1039, No.122), is amended to read:

13 Section 1302-A. Office for Safe Schools.--\* \* \*

14 (d) The office shall have the following duties as to  
15 targeted grants:

16 \* \* \*

17 (2) The office shall:

18 (i) Give priority in grant funding under subsection (c) to a  
19 school entity designated as a persistently dangerous school as  
20 defined in 22 Pa. Code § 403.2 (relating to definitions).

1 (i.1) Give priority in grant funding under subsection (c) to  
2 school entities located more than fifteen (15) minutes from the  
3 nearest law enforcement agency.

4 (ii) Give priority in grant funding under subsection (c) to  
5 school entities with the greatest need to establish safety and  
6 order.

7 (iii) To the greatest extent possible, ensure that grant  
8 funding is geographically dispersed to school entities and  
9 municipalities throughout this Commonwealth.

10 (iv) For school entities, municipalities, local law  
11 enforcement agencies and nonpublic schools that apply for  
12 funding for the training and compensation of school resource  
13 officers and school police officers under subsection (c.1), give  
14 priority to school entities, municipalities, local law  
15 enforcement agencies and nonpublic schools that utilize school  
16 resource officers or school police officers who have completed  
17 additional training recommended by the Department of Education  
18 relating to interaction with all children and adolescents within  
19 a school setting.

20 (v) For school entities or nonpublic schools that apply for  
21 funding for school police officers under subsection (c.1), give  
22 priority to school entities and nonpublic schools that utilize  
23 school police officers who satisfy all of the following:

24 (A) Are retired Federal agents or retired State, municipal  
25 or military police officers.

26 (B) Are independent contractors of the school entity or  
27 nonpublic school.

28 (C) Are compensated on an hourly basis and receive no other  
29 compensation or fringe benefits from the school entity or  
30 nonpublic school.

1 (D) Have completed such annual training as shall be required  
2 by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training  
3 Commission pursuant to 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating to  
4 municipal police education and training).

5 (E) Are in satisfaction of the requirements of section 111.

6 (F) In the case of a school entity, have been indemnified by  
7 the school entity pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. § 8548 (relating to  
8 indemnity).

9 (G) Are utilized by a school entity or nonpublic school that  
10 has not employed a school police officer within the three years  
11 immediately preceding the effective date of this clause.  
12 Nothing in this clause shall be construed to impact on grant  
13 decisions for school entities, municipalities or local law  
14 enforcement agencies that apply for funding for hiring of school  
15 resource officers pursuant to subsection (c.1).

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

18 Section 1302.2-A. School Safety Requirements.--(a) Each  
19 school entity shall undergo an annual safety assessment audit to  
20 determine whether it is in compliance with the school entity's  
21 safety plan and the provisions of this chapter. The safety  
22 assessment audit shall be conducted by the Pennsylvania State  
23 Police or municipal police department that has jurisdiction over  
24 the school entity and shall include building security, emergency  
25 plans, access control and physical infrastructure.

26 (b) Each school entity shall have a school safety plan that  
27 addresses violence prevention, crisis intervention, emergency  
28 response and management, including communications within the  
29 school entity and with law enforcement and other emergency  
30 responders. The plan shall be both districtwide and building

1 specific and shall in part include the memorandum of  
2 understanding described in section 1302-A(b)(6) and the disaster  
3 response and emergency preparedness plan as required by 35  
4 Pa.C.S. § 7701(g) (relating to duties concerning disaster  
5 prevention).

6 (c) Each school entity shall provide the Pennsylvania State  
7 Police or municipal police department that has jurisdiction over  
8 the school entity with current blueprints for each building of  
9 the school entity.

10 (d) Each school entity shall have a threat assessment and  
11 crisis response team to evaluate information about threats of  
12 school violence and employ the results of the evaluations in  
13 developing strategies to prevent potential school attacks. A  
14 planning team, consisting of school administrators, law  
15 enforcement and mental health agencies shall design a threat  
16 assessment process for the school entity.

17 (e) Each school entity at least annually shall conduct a  
18 safety drill that addresses risks, including active threats,  
19 terrorism, explosives and other scenarios that allow students,  
20 teachers and administrative staff to be prepared to respond to  
21 threats as they evolve. The safety drill shall be in addition to  
22 the fire and emergency evacuation drills required by section  
23 1517. The school entity shall coordinate the safety drill with  
24 law enforcement and other emergency responders.

25 (f) Each school entity shall certify compliance with this  
26 section as part of the report submitted to the department under  
27 section 1303-A(b).

28 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, or  
29 immediately, whichever is later.