
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2057 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HELM, D. COSTA, MURT, ROEBUCK, WARREN AND
WATSON, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 5, 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 grounds and buildings, providing
6 for panic buttons in schools; in safe schools, further
7 providing for Office for Safe Schools; and, in terms and
8 courses of study, further providing for fire and emergency
9 evacuation drills.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

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

15 Section 739.1. Panic Button.--(a) Within two years of the
16 effective date of this section, each school building shall be
17 equipped with at least two panic buttons as follows:

18 (1) One panic button placed in the office of the principal
19 or chief school administrator of the school building.

20 (2) One panic button placed strategically and
21 inconspicuously in the main administration office for office

1 personnel to have access to during a violent or life-threatening
2 emergency situation.

3 (b) A panic button under subsection (a) shall be a silent
4 alarm which is directly linked to and which only alerts each
5 emergency entity.

6 (c) A panic button under subsection (a) may not be:

7 (1) linked to the school building's alarm system; and

8 (2) used to communicate alerts to faculty, students and
9 other personnel.

10 (d) Except for a panic button, a school may use any means of
11 communication to alert school personnel and students.

12 (e) A school may apply to the Office of Safe Schools for a
13 grant.

14 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
16 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Chief school administrator" shall mean the superintendent of
18 an area vocational-technical school, executive director of an
19 intermediate unit or chief executive officer of a charter school
20 or regional charter school.

21 "Emergency entity" shall mean all of the following:

22 (1) The local law enforcement agency within whose
23 jurisdiction the school building is located.

24 (2) The public safety answering point whose geographic area
25 includes the school building.

26 "Public safety answering point" shall have the same meaning
27 as given to the term in 35 Pa.C.S. § 5302 (relating to
28 definitions).

29 "School building" shall mean a building of any of the
30 following which serves pupils:

1 (1) An area vocational-technical school.

2 (2) A school district.

3 (3) An intermediate unit.

4 (4) A charter school.

5 (5) A regional charter school.

6 Section 2. Section 1302-A(c)(9) of the act is amended to
7 read:

8 Section 1302-A. Office for Safe Schools.--* * *

9 (c) In addition to the powers and duties set forth under
10 subsection (b), the office is authorized to make targeted grants
11 to school entities to fund programs which address school
12 violence, including:

13 * * *

14 (9) Security planning, purchase of security-related
15 technology which may include metal detectors, protective
16 lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency
17 communications equipment, including panic button capability to
18 alert each emergency entity of a violent or life-threatening
19 emergency situation, electronic locksets, deadbolts and theft
20 control devices and training in the use of security-related
21 technology. Security planning and purchase of security-related
22 technology shall be based on safety needs identified by the
23 school entity's board of directors.

24 * * *

25 Section 3. Section 1517 of the act, amended November 6, 2017
26 (P.L.1142, No.55), is amended to read:

27 Section 1517. Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills.--(a)
28 Except as provided under subsection (a.1), in all school
29 buildings of school entities where fire-escapes, appliances for
30 the extinguishment of fires, or proper and sufficient exits in

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

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

20 (1) The school [security drill may] safety drill shall be
21 conducted while the school entity is in session and students are
22 present under policies adopted by the chief school
23 administrator.

24 (2) The chief school administrator or a designee shall
25 oversee the instruction and training of students and school
26 employees in the procedures to be used in the school [security]
27 safety drill.

28 (3) The chief school administrator shall notify and request
29 assistance from [the local law enforcement agency and] an
30 emergency [management agency] entity before conducting the

1 school [security] safety drill. The notification shall include:

2 (A) Time and date of the school safety drill.

3 (B) The address of the school building where the school
4 safety drill is being conducted.

5 (C) The names of individuals in charge of the school safety
6 drill.

7 (4) The chief school administrator shall provide notice of
8 the school [security] safety drill in advance to parents and
9 legal guardians of the students attending the school building
10 for which the school [security] safety drill is scheduled.

11 (b) Chief school administrators are hereby required to see
12 that the provisions of this section are faithfully carried out
13 in the school entities over which they have charge.

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

20 (d) The following shall apply:

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

1 accidents.

2 (2) Bus operators shall be provided with proper training
3 and instructions to enable them to carry out the provisions
4 of this subsection and may be required to attend classes and
5 drills in connection therewith.

6 (e) On or before the tenth day of April of each year, each
7 chief school administrator shall certify to the Department of
8 Education that the emergency evacuation drills and school
9 [security] safety drills herein required have been conducted in
10 accordance with this section.

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

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

18 "Emergency entity" as defined in section 739.1(f).

19 "School entity" shall mean an area vocational-technical
20 school, school district, intermediate unit, charter school or
21 regional charter school.

22 "School [security] safety drill" shall mean a planned
23 exercise, other than a fire drill or natural disaster drill,
24 designed to practice procedures to respond to an emergency
25 situation that may include, but is not limited to, an act of
26 terrorism, armed intruder situation or other violent threat.

27 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.