

HOUSE BILL 159: Education Law Changes, Sec. 4: School Threat Assessment Survey

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee: Date: August 1, 2022
Introduced by: Prepared by: Kara McCraw
Analysis of: Sec. 4 of S.L. 2022-71 Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Section 4 of S.L. 2022-71 and Section 7.9 of S.L. 2022-74 are duplicate sections that require all public school units (PSUs) to report to the Center for Safer Schools by November 15, 2022, on the following:

- Any student threat assessment system in place and the number and nature of threats identified by that system.
- Responses to identified threats and results of those responses.
- Whether each school in the PSU has a School Risk Management Plan and the number of drills conducted under the plan.
- Any other systems, policies, procedures, or precautions undertaken with the purpose of minimizing violence and threats in schools.

By February 15, 2023, the Center for Safer Schools, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, must report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on recommendations to the General Assembly on a system to identify and address threats in schools that can be implemented by PSUs statewide and any additional funding needed to support the system.

Section 4 of S.L. 2022-71 became effective July 8, 2022. Section 7.9 of S.L. 2022-74 became effective July 1, 2022.

BILL ANALYSIS: This section requires all public school units to report the following information to the Center for Safer Schools by November 15, 2022:

- Whether the public school unit or any school in the public school unit has any systems, policies, procedures, or precautions in place to identify or address indications that a student can pose a risk of violence or other harm to themselves or others and, if so, a description of the system, policy, procedure, or precaution.
- The number and nature of any threats identified under any system in place for the public school unit.
- The response to any identified threat and the result of that response.
- Whether each school in the public school unit has a School Risk Management Plan and the number of drills conducted under the plan.
- Any other systems, policies, procedures, or precautions the public school unit or a school in the public school unit undertakes with the purpose of minimizing violence and threats in schools.

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By February 15, 2023, the Center for Safer Schools, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction, must report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on recommendations to the General Assembly on a system to identify and address threats in schools that could be implemented by public school units statewide, as well as any additional funding that would be required to support such a system. The Center for Safer Schools' report must also include the information submitted by public school units described above by public school unit and aggregated statewide.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 4 of S.L. 2022-71 became effective July 8, 2022.