



**Substitute House Bill No. 6846**

**Special Act No. 23-31**

**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THEIR EFFECT ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall conduct, within available appropriations, an evaluation of the efficacy and effectiveness of the number and implementation of fire drills and crisis response drills pursuant to sections 10-222n and 10-231 of the general statutes, and the effects such drills have on the mental health and physical safety and protection of children. In conducting such evaluation, the department shall (1) review the annual reports submitted by each local and regional board of education pursuant to the school security and safety plans standards, as described in section 10-222n of the general statutes, (2) analyze how the results of the security and vulnerability assessments and school security and safety plans for each board, developed pursuant to section 10-222m of the general statutes, are addressed and whether the current number of and requirements for fire drills and crisis response drills are adequate or appropriate to address such results, (3) assess the effectiveness of how local and regional boards of education are conducting such crisis

***Substitute House Bill No. 6846***

response drills in accordance with the crisis response drill protocols developed pursuant to section 10-222n of the general statutes, and (4) review and analyze the effect that the number and implementation of such drills has on the mental health and well-being of children, and the efficacy of whether such number and implementation is improving the protection and safety of children during an actual fire or crisis emergency.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its findings, including any recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.