

Legislative Analysis



REQUIRE PANIC ALARMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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House Bill 4241 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Brenda Carter
Committee: Education
Revised 9-19-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4241 would amend the Revised School Code to require that a *panic alarm* be installed in every *school building* for use in the event of a school security emergency such as a nonfire evacuation, a lockdown, or an active shooter situation. The panic alarm would have to be directly linked to the local law enforcement agency designated as a first responder for the school building and be capable of transmitting a signal or message to the agency immediately upon its activation. This requirement would apply to public schools (i.e., school buildings operated by school districts, intermediate school districts, or public school academies).

The bill would define *panic alarm* as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation, either virtually from a phone or computer system or nonvirtually, of a device or an alternative mechanism intended to communicate to law enforcement life-threatening or emergency situations that require a response from law enforcement.

School building would mean a building where instruction takes place or where students are present during the school day.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 4242, which provides an appropriation to help fund this requirement. The tie bar means that HB 4241 cannot take effect unless HB 4242 is also enacted.

Proposed MCL 380.1308c

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4241 would have no fiscal impact on the state and could increase costs for local school districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), and public school academies (PSAs). The tie-barred HB 4242 provides \$6.7 million GF/GP for districts (including PSAs) and ISDs to offset the cost of purchasing and installing a panic alarm for each school building.¹ Districts, ISDs, and PSAs may incur increased costs if the state funding is insufficient to cover the cost of the panic alarms.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ See supplemental summary for HB 4242 here: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-4242-38CDFDFD.pdf>