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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2492 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, BARRAR, BOBACK, KULIK, MURT, RYAN AND  
STEPHENS, JUNE 14, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 14, 2018

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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," providing for threat assessment.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
9 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
10 article to read:

11 ARTICLE XIII-B

12 THREAT ASSESSMENT

13 Section 1301-B. Violence prevention committee and threat  
14 assessment teams on college campuses.

15 (a) Adoption of policies.--Each public institution of higher  
16 education shall have in place policies and procedures for the  
17 prevention of violence on campus, including assessment and  
18 intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to  
19 the safety of the campus community.

1 (b) Committee.--The board of directors or other governing  
2 body of each public institution of higher education shall  
3 determine a committee structure on campus of individuals charged  
4 with education and prevention of violence on campus. Each  
5 committee shall include representatives from student affairs,  
6 law enforcement, human resources, counseling services, residence  
7 life and other constituencies as needed. The committee shall  
8 also consult with legal counsel as needed. Once formed, each  
9 committee shall develop a clear statement of:

10 (1) Mission.

11 (2) Membership.

12 (3) Leadership.

13 The statement shall be published and available to the campus  
14 community.

15 (c) Duties of committee.--Each committee shall be charged  
16 with:

17 (1) Providing guidance to students, faculty and staff  
18 regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior  
19 that may represent a threat to the community.

20 (2) Identifying members of the campus community to whom  
21 threatening behavior should be reported.

22 (3) Establishing policies and procedures for the  
23 assessment of individuals whose behavior may present a  
24 threat.

25 (4) Providing appropriate means of intervention with  
26 such individuals and sufficient means of action, including  
27 interim suspension, referrals to community services boards or  
28 health care providers for evaluation or treatment, or medical  
29 separation to resolve potential threats.

30 (d) Threat assessment team.--The board of visitors or other

1 governing body of each public institution of higher education  
2 shall establish a specific threat assessment team that shall  
3 include members from law enforcement, mental health  
4 professionals, representatives of student affairs and human  
5 resources and, if available, college or university counsel. Such  
6 team shall implement the assessment, intervention and action  
7 policies set forth by the committee under subsection (c).

8 (e) Threat assessment team functions.--Each threat  
9 assessment team shall establish relationships or utilize  
10 existing relationships with State and local law enforcement  
11 agencies as well as mental health agencies to expedite  
12 assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may  
13 present a threat to safety. Upon a preliminary determination  
14 that an individual poses a threat of violence to self or others,  
15 or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for  
16 assistance, a threat assessment team may obtain criminal history  
17 record information. No member of a threat assessment team shall  
18 redisclose any criminal history record information or health  
19 information obtained under this section or otherwise use any  
20 record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such  
21 disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

22 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
23 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
24 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

25 "Public institution of higher education." A community  
26 college or an institution which is part of the State System of  
27 Higher Education under Article XX-A.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.