

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 708 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, SNYDER, KORTZ, MURT, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, HILL-EVANS, DRISCOLL, MENTZER, NEILSON, McCLINTON AND DAVIDSON, MARCH 6, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 6, 2019

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 terms and courses of study,
 6 further providing for fire and emergency evacuation drills.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1517(a) and (a.1) of the act of March 10,
 10 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
 11 amended November 6, 2017 (P.L.1142, No.55) and June 22, 2018
 12 (P.L.241, No.39), are amended to read:

13 Section 1517. Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills.--(a)
 14 Except as provided under subsection (a.1), in all school
 15 buildings of school entities where fire-escapes, appliances for
 16 the extinguishment of fires, or proper and sufficient exits in
 17 case of fire or panic, either or all, are required by law to be
 18 maintained, [fire drills] a fire drill and school security drill
 19 shall be periodically conducted during alternating months, not

1 less than one a month, by the teacher or teachers in charge,
2 under rules and regulations to be promulgated by the chief
3 school administrator under whose supervision such school
4 entities are. In such fire drills the pupils and teachers shall
5 be instructed in, and made thoroughly familiar with, the use of
6 the fire-escapes, appliances and exits. The drill shall include
7 the actual use thereof, and the complete removal of the pupils
8 and teachers, in an expeditious and orderly manner, by means of
9 fire-escapes and exits, from the building to a place of safety
10 on the ground outside.

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

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

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

29 (3) The chief school administrator shall notify and request
30 assistance from the local law enforcement agency and emergency

1 management agency before conducting the school security drill at
2 least once during the school year.

3 (4) The chief school administrator shall provide notice of
4 the school security drill in advance to parents and legal
5 guardians of the students attending the school building for
6 which the school security drill is scheduled.

7 * * *

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