



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 563

HOUSE BILL NO. 1644

By Representatives Lamberth, Slater, Sherrell, Alexander, Garrett, Hardaway, Gant, Zachary, Gary Hicks, Russell, Richey, Moon, Leatherwood, Bricken, Littleton, Moody, Davis, Wright, Powell, Todd, Jernigan, Whitson, Carringer, McCalmon, Eldridge, Ragan, Marsh, Hawk, Miller, Raper, Stevens, Love, Howell, Helton-Haynes, Cochran, Terry, Carr, Kumar, Tim Hicks, Hurt, Cepicky, Powers

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1679

By Senators Haile, White, Akbari, Bowling, Campbell, Jackson, Kyle, Lowe, Massey, Walley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 49, relative to safety precautions taken in response to potential active shooter situations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

WHEREAS, the safety of Tennessee students, teachers, substitute teachers, and staff is paramount; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools are equipped with alarm systems and regularly conduct a variety of drills to direct the actions of students, teachers, substitute teachers, and staff on school premises in the event of a fire, inclement weather, and in active shooter situations; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that students, teachers, substitute teachers, and staff are notified of the correct emergency or threat occurring on school premises and take the correct safety measures; and

WHEREAS, smoke generated from ammunition fired within a school building could activate a fire alarm, causing students, teachers, substitute teachers, and staff to move or congregate into areas that are unsafe and that place them in grave danger in an active shooter situation; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools must anticipate and plan for the possibility of a fire alarm being activated automatically by the presence of gunfire or manually by an active shooter with criminal intent, and that students, teachers, substitute teachers, and staff may unknowingly respond to the wrong emergency or threat, placing them in grave danger; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-807, is amended by designating subsection (e) as subsection (f) and adding the following as a new subsection (e):

(e)

(1) Each LEA, public charter school, private school, and church-related school shall develop a procedure for determining the cause of a fire alarm activation, including the potential for an active shooter event. The procedure must be developed in consultation with local fire department and law enforcement officials and must comply with applicable fire and building codes. The procedure must include response procedures for students and school staff, including substitute teachers and other part-time staff and school volunteers, after a determination is made regarding whether the emergency situation involves a fire, an active shooter, or other incident. Each LEA, public charter school, private school, and church-related school shall annually train all school staff, including substitute teachers and other part-time staff and school volunteers, on the safety procedure developed pursuant to this subsection (e).

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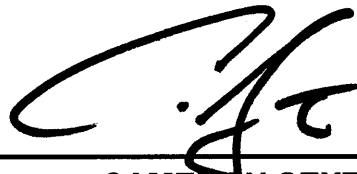
(2) Each LEA, and to the extent applicable, each public charter school, shall coordinate with its district-wide school safety team and building-level school safety team to incorporate the procedure developed pursuant to this subsection (e) in its district-wide school safety plan and building-level school safety plan.

(3) Each procedure developed pursuant to this subsection (e) must be implemented no later than January 1, 2025, and must be annually reviewed and updated, if necessary, to ensure the procedure reflects best practices for the safety of students and school staff, including substitute teachers and other part-time staff and school volunteers.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: February 26, 2024



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12th day of March 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR