

HOUSE BILL 2722

By Grills

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Title 68, relative to school safety drills.

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the General Assembly to protect students in the case of
an emergency; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding
the following language as a new part:

49-6-2801.

(a) The commissioner of commerce and insurance, or the commissioner's
deputies and assistants, shall require fire drills in educational and institutional
occupancies.

(b) Fire drills requiring full evacuation in educational occupancies where such
occupancies constitute the major occupancy of a building must be held at least one (1)
time every thirty (30) school days, with two (2) fire drills occurring during the first thirty
(30) full days of the school year. Additionally, four (4) fire safety educational
announcements must be conducted throughout the year. The LEA shall develop the
content of the educational announcements. Fire drills requiring full evacuation must be
held at least once every two (2) months in institutional occupancies where such
occupancies constitute the major occupancy of a building. A record of all fire drills,
including the time and date, must be kept in the respective school or institutional offices
and must be made available upon request to the state fire marshal, or the state fire
marshal's deputies or assistants, for inspection and review.

(c) In educational occupancies, fire drills must include complete evacuation of all persons from the building. In institutional occupancies, fire drills must be conducted to familiarize operating personnel with their assigned position of emergency duty. Complete evacuation of occupants from the building at the time of the fire drill must be required only where it is practicable and does not involve moving or disturbing persons under medical care.

(d) The state fire marshal, or the state fire marshal's deputies and assistants, shall avail themselves for the training of owners, tenants, or the owner's or tenant's employees in methods of fire drills to ensure the efficient and safe use of exit facilities in buildings and to prevent panic, and in the coordination of the drills with fire alarm systems.

(e) All doors serving as an exit must be kept unlocked during the periods that a building is occupied.

(f) In addition to the fire drills required by this section in educational occupancies, a safety drill not requiring full evacuation of all persons from the building must be conducted at least one (1) time during each school year. A record of all safety drills, including the time and date, must be kept in the respective school offices and must be made available upon request to the state fire marshal, or the state fire marshal's deputies or assistants, for inspection and review.

49-6-2802.

(a) The state board of education shall promulgate, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, rules requiring each LEA to implement earthquake preparedness drills in each of the schools administered by the respective LEA. In developing the rules, the board shall consult and collaborate with the Tennessee emergency management agency and the state fire marshal. The rules must include a model plan for earthquake preparedness drills in schools, and the model plan must be suitable for adoption or modification by an LEA.

(b) The drills must be conducted at least twice every school year. A record of all earthquake preparedness drills, including the time and date, must be kept in the respective schools and must be made available for review upon request by the board.

49-6-2803.

Each school safety team shall conduct at least one (1) armed intruder drill annually. The drill must be conducted in coordination with the appropriate local law enforcement agency. The results of the drill must be maintained by each school for a minimum of five (5) years and must be made available to the department of education upon request.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-102-137, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-201, is amended by deleting subsection (b).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-807, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.