



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 367

HOUSE BILL NO. 322

By Representatives Lamberth, Cochran, White, Gant, Gillespie, Slater, Ragan, Butler, Haston, Bulso, Terry, Leatherwood, Davis, Russell, Bricken, Alexander, Moon, Boyd, Burkhart, Holsclaw, Sherrell, Crawford, Mr. Speaker Sexton, Travis, Zachary, Grills, Brock Martin, Darby, Vaughan, Powell, Faison, Gary Hicks, Wright, Hurt, Hardaway, Hale, McCalmon, Barrett, Greg Martin, Beck, Cepicky, Capley, Helton-Haynes, Whitson, Hawk, Littleton, Marsh, Powers, Parkinson, Reedy, Moody, Williams, Warner, Carringer, Carr, Eldridge, Sparks, Tim Hicks, Vital, Jernigan, Lafferty, Rudder, Kumar

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 274

By Senators Johnson, Lundberg, Bowling, Gardenhire, Jackson, Lowe, Massey, Reeves, Roberts, Rose, Taylor, Walley, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-7-504; Title 49, Chapter 6 and Title 62, Chapter 35, relative to school safety.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-802(a), is amended by deleting the word "education" and substituting instead the word "safety".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-802(b)(1), is amended by deleting the word "safety" and substituting instead the word "education".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-802(b), is amended by adding the following subdivisions:

- () A representative of the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association;
- () A representative of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-803, is amended by deleting the language "the director of the Tennessee school safety center established in § 49-6-4302" and substituting instead the language "the commissioner of safety".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-804, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

49-6-804. Safety plans and security systems.

(a) Each LEA, and to the extent applicable, each public charter school, shall adopt a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level school safety plans regarding crisis intervention, emergency response, and emergency management. The plans must be developed by a district-wide school safety team and a building-level school safety team established pursuant to this part and must follow the template developed by the state-level safety team. Each district-wide school safety team and building-level school safety team shall consider including in the district-wide school safety plan or building-level school safety plan the implementation of a mobile panic alert system that is capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies and that integrates with local public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations. An LEA or public charter school having only one (1) school building shall develop a single building-level school safety plan, which must also fulfill all requirements for the development of a district-wide plan. Each LEA and public charter school shall review each of the plans it adopts pursuant to this subsection (a) annually.

(b) Each private school and each church-related school shall adopt a building-level school safety plan regarding crisis intervention, emergency response, and

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emergency management. Each private school and each church-related school shall review its plan annually. By October 1, 2023, and by each October 1 thereafter, each private school and each church-related school shall provide the school's building-level school safety plan to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, as well as any law enforcement agency or other emergency response organization participating in an armed intruder drill under § 49-6-807. As used in this subsection (b):

(1) "Church-related school" means a school as defined in § 49-50-801; and

(2) "Private school" means a school accredited by, or a member of, an organization or association approved by the state board of education as an organization accrediting or setting academic requirements in schools, or that has been approved by the state, or is in the future approved by the commissioner in accordance with rules promulgated by the state board of education.

(c) A meeting concerning school security, the district-wide school safety plans, or the building-level school safety plans shall not be subject to the open meetings laws compiled in title 8, chapter 44. Though closed to the general public, reasonable notice must be provided to the general public prior to such a meeting held by an LEA or a public charter school. The local board of education or public charter school governing body shall not discuss or deliberate on any issues or subjects other than school security or the school safety plans adopted pursuant to this section during such a meeting.

(d) By July 1, 2023, and by each July 1 thereafter, each LEA and public charter school shall provide the following to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, the department of education, and the department of safety:

(1) The LEA's, and to the extent applicable, the public charter school's, district-wide school safety plan;

(2) The building-level school safety plan for each school in the LEA or each public charter school; and

(3) The floor plans for all school buildings within the LEA or used by the public charter school.

(e) Each LEA and public charter school shall also provide the school safety plans described in subsection (d) to a law enforcement agency or other emergency response organization participating in an armed intruder drill under § 49-6-807.

(f) Upon the request of a local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, the department of education, or the department of safety, the LEA or public charter school shall provide any other plans, information, or records regarding school security.

(g)

(1) During a drill or in an emergency situation, each LEA or public charter school shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a responding law enforcement agency with access to security systems that may be required for the law enforcement agency's response.

(2) For purposes of this subsection (g), "security systems" includes, but is not limited to, audio recording systems, visual recording systems, and any other cameras, alarm systems, fire systems, communication systems, or other security measures in a school building.

(h) This section does not diminish the jurisdiction of local law enforcement agencies.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-805, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

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(10) Policies and procedures to ensure that all individuals providing direct services to students or school staff in response to a school crisis have received the appropriate background checks in compliance with state law, including § 49-5-413.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-807, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

49-6-807. Annual drills.

(a) Each school safety team, private school, and church-related school shall annually conduct at least one (1):

- (1) Armed intruder drill;
- (2) Incident command drill; and
- (3) Emergency safety bus drill.

(b)

(1) Each armed intruder drill must be conducted in coordination with the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

(2) Each incident command drill:

(A) Conducted by a school safety team:

(i) Must be conducted without students present; and

(ii) Must prepare school staff and law enforcement agencies on what to expect in the event of an emergency situation in the school; and

(B) Conducted by a private school or church-related school:

(i) May be conducted with or without students present; and

(ii) Must prepare school staff and law enforcement agencies on what to expect in the event of an emergency situation in the school.

(3) Each emergency safety bus drill:

(A) Conducted by a school safety team:

(i) Must be conducted without students present; and

(ii) Must prepare school staff and law enforcement agencies on what to expect in the event of an emergency situation on a school bus; and

(B) Conducted by a private school or church-related school:

(i) May be conducted with or without students present; and

(ii) Must prepare school staff and law enforcement agencies on what to expect in the event of an emergency situation on a school bus.

(c) The results of a drill conducted pursuant to subsection (a) must be:

(1) Maintained by the school for a minimum of five (5) years;

(2) Made available to:

(i) A local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, and

(ii) The department of education or the department of safety upon request, if the drill was conducted by a school safety team.

(d) The drills required in subsection (a) are in addition to the drills required in § 68-102-137.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Church-related school" means a school as defined in § 49-50-801; and

(2) "Private school" means a school accredited by, or a member of, an organization or association approved by the state board of education as an organization accrediting or setting academic requirements in schools, or that has been approved by the state, or is in the future approved by the commissioner in accordance with rules promulgated by the state board of education.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-808(b), is amended by adding the language "and each building-level school safety plan" after the language "its district-wide comprehensive safety plan".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-808(c), is amended by adding the language "and school building floor plans provided pursuant to this section and § 49-6-804" after the language "Building-level emergency response plans".

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 8, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-6-817. School building entrances required to be locked.

(a) Each public school operated by an LEA, public charter school, private school, and church-related school shall ensure that all exterior doors leading into a school building are locked at all times and access to school buildings is limited to the school's primary entrance, unless otherwise determined by school policy, to prevent unauthorized entry into the school building while students are present during the school day as well as when students are present outside of regular school hours for school-related purposes or activities.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), outside of regular school hours, a public school operated by an LEA, public charter school, private school, or church-related school may unlock the door to the school building's primary entrance during a school-related event or activity if the door is continuously monitored by a school or LEA employee who is physically present at the door to ensure access is limited to only authorized persons and to alert others if an unauthorized person enters, or attempts to enter, the school building.

(c) State and local law enforcement personnel are authorized to inspect a door serving as an entrance to, or exit from, an LEA or public charter school building to determine whether the door is locked as required by subsection (a). There is no limit on the number of inspections law enforcement personnel may conduct under this subsection (c). Except as provided in subsection (b), if law enforcement personnel find that the door to an entrance or exit from a school building is unlocked in violation of subsection (a), then the school must immediately lock the door and the law enforcement agency that found the unlocked door shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, send written notification to:

(1) The LEA's director of schools or the leader of the public charter school, as applicable;

(2) The chair of the local board of education or public charter school governing body, as applicable;

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(3) The head of the parent-teacher organization for the LEA or public charter school, if there is such an organization for the public charter school;

(4) The school principal;

(5) The department of safety;

(6) The department of education; and

(7) Each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction.

(d) The LEA's director of schools, the leader of the public charter school, or their respective designees, shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notification from the law enforcement agency under subsection (c), send written confirmation to the notifying law enforcement agency that the door was immediately locked as required by subsection (a) and that processes are in place to ensure that the door remains locked as required by subsection (a), except as authorized in subsection (b). The director, leader, or their respective designee shall send a copy of the director's, leader's, or their respective designee's written confirmation to the recipients identified in subdivisions (c)(2)-(7). The director's, leader's, or their respective designee's written confirmation must state whether the LEA or public charter school has a full-time school resource officer whose primary location is the school found to be in violation of subsection (a).

(e)

(1) If an LEA or public charter school is found to have violated subsection (a) on two (2) or more occasions in one (1) school year, then:

(A)

(i) If the LEA or public charter school does not currently have a school resource officer whose primary location is the school found to have violated subsection (a) on two (2) or more occasions in one (1) school year, the LEA or public charter school shall cause a full-time school resource officer or armed school security officer to be posted at the school. The LEA or public charter school shall bear the cost of posting the school resource officer or armed school security officer. The school resource officer or armed school security officer must be posted at the school within thirty (30) days from the date on which the LEA or public charter school received notification under subsection (d) of the school's second violation of subsection (a). The LEA or public charter school shall notify the commissioner of education that the required school resource officer or armed school security officer is posted. If the LEA or public charter school fails to have a school resource officer or armed school security officer posted within thirty (30) days as required in this subdivision (e)(1)(A), then the LEA or public charter school must submit a letter to the commissioner of education every thirty (30) days that an officer is not posted explaining why the LEA or public charter school, as applicable, has not had an officer posted; and

(ii) If the department of education receives notice of a subsequent violation of subsection (a) by the school in one (1) school year, the commissioner shall withhold state funds from the LEA or public charter school, in either the current or upcoming school year, in the following amounts:

(a) For a third violation of subsection (a) committed by a school in one (1) school year, two percent (2%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA;

(b) For a fourth violation of subsection (a) committed by a school in one (1) school year, four percent

(4%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA;

(c) For a fifth violation of subsection (a) committed by a school in one (1) school year, six percent (6%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA;

(d) For a sixth violation of subsection (a) committed by a school in one (1) school year, eight percent (8%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA; and

(e) For a seventh violation of subsection (a) committed by a school in one (1) school year, ten percent (10%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA; or

(B) If the LEA or public charter school currently has a full-time school resource officer or armed school security officer whose primary location is the school found to have violated subsection (a) on two (2) or more occasions, the commissioner shall withhold state funds from the LEA or public charter school, in either the current or upcoming school year, in the following amounts:

(i) For the second violation of subsection (a) committed by the school in one (1) school year, two percent (2%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA;

(ii) For a third violation of subsection (a) committed by the school in one (1) school year, four percent (4%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA;

(iii) For a fourth violation of subsection (a) committed by the school in one (1) school year, six percent (6%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA;

(iv) For a fifth violation of subsection (a) committed by the school in one (1) school year, eight percent (8%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA; and

(v) For a sixth violation of subsection (a) committed by the school in one (1) school year, ten percent (10%) of the annual state funds generated by the school in the TISA.

(2) If funds are withheld pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(A) or (B), then the funds must be withheld until:

(A) The LEA or public charter school has the required school resource officer or armed school security officer posted at the school; and

(B) The LEA or public charter school submits to the department of education, and receives the department's approval of, a corrective action plan. The corrective action plan must include:

(i) A statement or other evidence demonstrating that the violation of subsection (a) has been remedied;

(ii) Actions to be taken by the LEA or public charter school to resolve the behavior or issue that contributed to, or caused, the violation, including any new written procedures or training;

(iii) Deadlines for the LEA or public charter school to successfully complete the actions identified in the corrective action plan pursuant to subdivision (e)(2)(B)(ii); and

(iv) Dates for the LEA or public charter school to submit reports and documentation to the department to verify the LEA's or public charter school's implementation of the actions identified in the corrective action plan pursuant to subdivision (e)(2)(B)(ii).

(3) The percentage of any funds withheld pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(A) or (B) must be calculated by the department of education based on the amount of state funds generated by the school in the TISA for the previous school year. If a public charter school did not generate state funds in the previous school year, then the percentage of any funds withheld pursuant to subdivision (e)(1)(A) or (B) must be based on the average amount of state funds generated by the schools in the LEA in which the public charter school is located.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Armed school security officer" means an off-duty law enforcement officer providing school security services pursuant to § 49-6-809;

(2) "Church-related school" means a school as defined in § 49-50-801; and

(3) "Private school" means a school accredited by, or a member of, an organization or association approved by the state board of education as an organization accrediting or setting academic requirements in schools, or that has been approved by the state, or is in the future approved by the commissioner in accordance with rules promulgated by the state board of education.

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-810, is amended by deleting the language "shall report" and substituting instead the language "and the commissioner of safety shall jointly report".

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 8, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-6-818. School buildings constructed or remodeled after July 1, 2023.

(a) A public school building, including a public charter school building, constructed or remodeled after July 1, 2023, must, at a minimum:

(1) Include a door-locking mechanism on each classroom door that allows the classroom door to be locked from the inside;

(2) Have installed a clear, bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film on the glass panel of each exterior entry or basement level window and door to prevent individuals from entering the school building without authorization by breaking the glass in an exterior entry or basement level window or door;

(3) Include a camera system that continuously monitors each entrance, hallway, and communal area in the school building during regular school hours and during school-related events and activities conducted on school grounds that is accessible by a local law enforcement agency in an emergency situation; and

(4) Include at least one (1) secure vestibule that serves as the primary entrance to the school building that contains two (2) separate sets of doors through which a person must pass to gain entrance into the school building that are each capable of being locked separately to prevent a person from entering the school building until an LEA or school employee authorizes a person to enter.

(b) The date on which a public school building, including a public charter school building, is constructed for purposes of this section is the date on which the plans for the school building were approved by the agency having jurisdiction to approve construction of the school building or the date on which the construction permit was issued for the school building, whichever occurs first.

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(c) If a public school building, including a public charter school building, is remodeled, then the requirements specified in subsection (a) only apply to the portions of the building that are remodeled.

(d) As used in this section, "remodeled":

(1) Means a change to an existing building or facility, including, but not limited to, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, historic restoration, changes or rearrangement in structural parts or elements, and changes or rearrangement in the plan configuration of walls and full-height partitions; and

(2) Does not include routine maintenance, reroofing, painting or wallpapering, asbestos removal, or changes to mechanical or electrical systems so long as the changes do not affect the usability of the building or facility.

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2701(a), is amended by deleting the language "may adopt" and substituting instead the language "shall adopt".

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2701(c), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(10) Coordinate with state agencies providing support services and technical assistance to local threat assessment teams.

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2701(e), is amended by deleting the language "the local board of education and the director of schools" and substituting instead the language "the local board of education, the director of schools, the department of safety, the Tennessee school safety center, and the members of the state-level safety team established pursuant to § 49-6-802(a)".

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4302(a), is amended by adding the language ", in collaboration with the department of safety," after the language "The department of education".

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4302, is amended by deleting subsection (f) and substituting:

(f) The department of safety, in collaboration with the department of education, shall develop a school security assessment for use in Tennessee public schools. The departments shall provide training to local law enforcement agencies and school administrators on the use of the school security assessment to identify school security vulnerabilities. Each LEA and public charter school shall submit to the department of safety an annual school security self-assessment for each school that uses the school security assessment pursuant to this subsection (f). The department of safety may conduct periodic reviews of public schools, as it deems necessary, to verify the effective implementation and use of school security assessments to enhance school security.

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 10-7-504(p), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and adding the following as a new subdivision (2):

(2)

(A) All school security reports, memoranda, plans, notes, threats, and procedures, including drafts that are incorporated in reports created or received by the department of safety, must be treated as confidential and shall not be open for inspection by members of the public.

(B) This subdivision (p)(2) shall not be construed to limit access to those records by law enforcement agencies, courts, or other governmental agencies performing official functions.

SECTION 19. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-35-102, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

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() "Church-related school" means a school as defined in § 49-50-801;

() "Private school" means a school accredited by, or a member of, an organization or association approved by the state board of education as an organization accrediting or setting academic requirements in schools, or that has been approved by the state, or is in the future approved by the commissioner in accordance with rules promulgated by the state board of education;

() "Public charter school" means a public school in this state that is established and operating under the terms of a charter agreement and in accordance with title 49, chapter 13; and

() "Public school" means an elementary or secondary school operated by a local education agency, as defined in § 49-1-103, or by the state with public funds;

SECTION 20. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-35-103(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) and substituting instead the following:

(1) A government officer or employee performing official duties; provided, that this exemption shall not apply to a security guard or security officer who is providing security or patrol services at or in a public school;

SECTION 21. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-35-118(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) and substituting instead the following:

(1)

(A) Within fifteen (15) days of employment:

(i) An unarmed security guard or security officer applicant must complete general training and pass an examination; and

(ii) An armed security guard or security officer applicant must complete general training, pass an examination, and complete the training in subsection (b) within sixty (60) days of employment.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1)(A):

(i) An individual shall not be posted as an unarmed security guard at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school, or act as an unarmed security guard at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school unless the individual has completed the requirements of subdivision (a)(2)(A) before being posted; and

(ii) An individual shall not be posted as an armed security guard at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school, or act as an armed security guard at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school, unless the individual has completed the requirements of subdivision (a)(2)(A) and subsections (b) and (e) before being posted.

SECTION 22. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-35-118, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(e) Before providing security or patrol services at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school, an armed security guard or security officer applicant must complete an active-shooter training. The training required under this subsection (e) must be no less than eight (8) hours in duration and must be completed by each armed security guard or officer providing security or patrol services at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school, regardless of whether the armed security guard or officer is employed by a public school, public charter school, private school, church-related school, or a contract security company.

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SECTION 23. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-35-122, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(g) An armed security guard or officer providing security or patrol services at or in a public school, public charter school, private school, or church-related school must complete an active shooter refresher training approved by the commissioner before the individual's registration card may be renewed.

SECTION 24. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-35-134, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(d) It is unlawful for any person, contract security company, or proprietary security organization to post a security guard or officer at or in a public school if the security guard or officer is not properly registered, working on a pending application, or otherwise appropriately trained as required in § 62-35-118.

SECTION 25. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

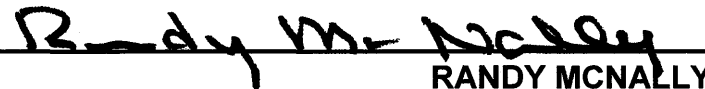
SECTION 26. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect on July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 322

PASSED: April 19, 2023



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 10th day of May 2023



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR