

HB42 INTRODUCED



1 PS7URE-1
2 By Representative Warren
3 RFD: Education Policy
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23
5 PFD: 23-Feb-23



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a local board of education is required to develop a comprehensive school emergency operations plan for each school under its jurisdiction.

This bill would require regularly scheduled lockdown drills conducted under the plan to include the participation of school resource officers and law enforcement and would designate those days on which drills are conducted as school safety and awareness days.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to amend Section 16-1-44, Code of Alabama 1975, providing for comprehensive school emergency operations plans; to require the participation of school resource officers and law enforcement agencies in regularly scheduled lockdown drills; and to designate the days on which lockdown drills are conducted as school safety and awareness days.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-1-44 of the Code of Alabama 1975,



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29 is amended to read as follows:

30 "§16-1-44

31 (a) (1) Each local board of education shall develop and
32 adopt a comprehensive school emergency operations plan for
33 each school under the authority of the board.

34 (2) The local board or its agent shall examine the
35 conditions and operations of each school under the authority
36 of the local board to determine hazards to student and staff
37 safety and shall propose changes, if needed to promote the
38 prevention of dangerous problems and circumstances.

39 (3) In developing the plan for each school, the local
40 board or its agent shall involve community law enforcement and
41 safety officials, including community fire and emergency
42 management assigned to the school.

43 (b) (1) The board shall incorporate into each
44 comprehensive school emergency operations plan the following:

45 a. Protocols for addressing each type of serious
46 threats to the safety of school property, students, employees,
47 or administrators which shall include, but not be limited to:
48 Security-related threats addressed within a school lockdown
49 plan, fire-related threats addressed within a fire safety
50 plan, and severe weather-related threats addressed within a
51 severe weather safety plan.

52 b. A protocol for responding to emergency events that
53 compromise the safety of school property, students, and
54 employees.

55 (2) Each protocol shall include procedures for
56 notification and responding to threats and emergency events,



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57 respectively, including such action as notification of
58 appropriate law enforcement and emergency response personnel
59 for assistance, and informing parents of affected students.

60 (3) Each comprehensive school emergency operations plan
61 shall include and use the following four alert levels, along
62 with set plans of notification, action, and procedures for
63 school personnel to follow in each circumstance:

64 ~~1.~~a. Heightened Awareness. This means a potential may
65 exist for an unusual situation and all parties should have
66 heightened awareness to react as needed.

67 ~~2.~~b. Secure Your Area of Responsibility. This means a
68 specific incident has occurred, such as a medical emergency or
69 a threat to one's self, and school personnel shall secure
70 their area of responsibility in order to decrease risk of
71 further incidents.

72 ~~3.~~c. Secure Perimeter. A potential threat or danger
73 does exist or has occurred within the community or
74 neighborhood, and all parties should be aware to react as
75 needed.

76 ~~4.~~d. Lockdown. Recognition of potential immediate
77 danger. Take immediate action using the safest and best option
78 for survival.

79 (c) (1) The board shall update the emergency operations
80 plan whenever a major modification to the building requires
81 changes in the procedures outlined in the plan and at other
82 necessary times. The school emergency operations safety plan
83 shall be reviewed and revised annually, as needed, by the
84 local board of education in consultation with the principal,



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85 administrative staff, faculty, and employees of the school.

86 (2) Upon request of law enforcement or safety
87 officials, or both, the local board shall provide a copy of
88 the current school emergency operations plan, which shall be
89 kept in a secure place and not considered public record.

90 (d) The local board shall grant access to each school
91 under its control to law enforcement and fire department
92 personnel to enable them to prepare for responding to threats
93 and emergency events affecting the school.

94 (e) The principal or his or her designee shall instruct
95 and train students concerning procedures to be used for
96 emergency drills and evacuations. The principal or his or her
97 designee shall ensure that all safety and security drills and
98 procedures are conducted and performed no less than what is
99 required by state or federal law, or both. The doors and exits
100 of each school may be locked from the outside but shall allow
101 for immediate egress by those inside the building during
102 school hours and at all school functions. An emergency drill
103 shall include, but not be limited to, safety, security, severe
104 weather, fire, and school lockdown drills.

105 (f) In conjunction with drills or evacuations required
106 by subsection (e), a principal or his or her designee shall
107 instruct students in safety precautions to be taken in case of
108 a severe weather watch, alert, or warning. A principal or his
109 or her designee shall designate, in accordance with standards
110 prescribed by the local superintendent of education in
111 conjunction with local public safety officials and the fire
112 marshal, or appropriate local fire safety official in counties



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113 that do not have a fire marshal, appropriate locations to be
114 used to shelter students in case of a severe weather watch,
115 alert, or warning.

116 (g) In the event of an immediate threat to a school
117 involving acts of violence, such as terrorism, a person
118 possessing a firearm or a deadly weapon, or any other threat
119 of violence, any person who perceives the threat, or his or
120 her designee, may institute a lockdown alert level for the
121 school.

122 (h) In addition to the requirements of subsection (e),
123 the principal or his or her designee shall conduct a school
124 lockdown drill during the first six weeks of the fall and
125 spring semesters of each school year to provide students with
126 instruction in the procedures to follow in the case of a
127 school lockdown. The principal or his or her designee shall
128 also hold an annual training session for employees of the
129 school regarding the school lockdown plan, drills, and
130 procedures to be conducted during a school year. The annual
131 training session shall include mental health awareness.

132 (1) School resource officers, school safety personnel,
133 and local and state law enforcement agencies shall participate
134 in regularly scheduled school lockdown drills.

135 (2) A day on which a lockdown drill is scheduled and
136 the importance of school safety and safety awareness is
137 emphasized shall be designated as a school safety and
138 awareness day.

139 ~~(h)~~ (i) Appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken
140 against any principal or his or her designee who knowingly



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141 neglects or refuses to comply with the requirements of this
142 section.

143 ~~(i)~~ (j) This section shall be read in pari materia with
144 other laws relating to school safety and emergency planning."

145 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first
146 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
147 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.