



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 496

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7291

House of Representatives, April 8, 2019

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. VERRENGIA of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SECURITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-222n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Not later than January 1, 2014, the Department of Emergency
4 Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Department of
5 Education, shall develop school security and safety plan standards.
6 Not later than January 1, 2020, and every three years thereafter, the
7 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
8 consultation with the Department of Education, shall reevaluate and
9 update the school security and safety plan standards. The school
10 security and safety plan standards shall be an all-hazards approach to
11 emergencies at public schools and shall include, but not be limited to,
12 (1) involvement of local officials, including the chief executive officer
13 of the municipality, the superintendent of schools, law enforcement,
14 fire, public health, emergency management and emergency medical

15 services, in the development of school security and safety plans, (2) a
16 command center organization structure based on the federal National
17 Incident Management System and a description of the responsibilities
18 of such command center organization, (3) a requirement that a school
19 security and safety committee be established at each school, in
20 accordance with the provisions of section 10-222m, (4) crisis
21 management procedures, (5) a requirement that local law enforcement
22 and other local public safety officials evaluate, score and provide
23 feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills, conducted pursuant to
24 section 10-231, (6) a requirement that local and regional boards of
25 education annually submit reports to the Department of Emergency
26 Services and Public Protection regarding such fire drills and crisis
27 response drills, (7) procedures for managing various types of
28 emergencies, (8) a requirement that each local and regional board of
29 education conduct a security and vulnerability assessment for each
30 school under the jurisdiction of such board every two years and
31 develop a school security and safety plan for each such school, in
32 accordance with the provisions of section 10-222m, based on the results
33 of such assessment, (9) a requirement that the safe school climate
34 committee for each school, established pursuant to section 10-222k,
35 collect and evaluate information relating to instances of disturbing or
36 threatening behavior that may not meet the definition of bullying, as
37 defined in section 10-222d, and report such information, as necessary,
38 to the district safe school climate coordinator, described in section 10-
39 222k, and the school security and safety committee for the school,
40 established pursuant to section 10-222m, and (10) a requirement that
41 the school security and safety plan for each school provide an
42 orientation on such school security and safety plan to each school
43 employee, as defined in section 10-222d, at such school and provide
44 violence prevention training in a manner prescribed in such school
45 security and safety plan. The Department of Emergency Services and
46 Public Protection shall make such standards available to local officials,
47 including local and regional boards of education, and the Department
48 of Education shall distribute such standards to all public schools
49 within the state.

50 (b) Not later than January 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
51 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall submit
52 the school security and safety plan standards and any
53 recommendations for legislation regarding such standards to the joint
54 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
55 matters relating to public safety and education, in accordance with the
56 provisions of section 11-4a.

57 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Emergency
58 Services and Public Protection shall evaluate and seek methods to
59 simplify the documentation required from local and regional boards of
60 education to comply with the reporting requirements of section 10-
61 222m of the general statutes and subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of
62 section 10-222n of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not
63 later than January 1, 2020, the department shall submit a report, in
64 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
65 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
66 cognizance of matters relating to public safety, identifying the essential
67 components and documentation required for such reports and
68 indicating how the department will simplify the required
69 documentation. The department shall implement new requirements
70 for documentation for reports, pursuant to the department's findings,
71 not later than July 1, 2020.

72 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
73 and the School Safety Infrastructure Council, established under section
74 10-292r of the general statutes, shall evaluate and seek methods to
75 simplify the documentation required of applicants for the school
76 security infrastructure competitive grant program. Not later than
77 January 1, 2020, the department and council shall submit a report, in
78 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
79 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
80 cognizance of matters relating to public safety, identifying the essential
81 components and documentation required for such applications and
82 indicating how the department will simplify the required
83 documentation. The department and council shall implement new

84 requirements for documentation for applications, pursuant to the
85 department's and council's findings, not later than July 1, 2020.

86 Sec. 3. Section 29-452 of the general statutes is repealed and the
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

88 The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
89 develop criteria to identify qualified school security consultants
90 operating in this state. The department shall establish and maintain a
91 registry of [school security consultants operating in the state] such
92 consultants. The registry shall contain the names and employers of
93 qualified school security consultants and such other information as the
94 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may
95 require. Such registry shall be updated at least annually by the
96 department, be made available to the public upon request and be
97 published on the department's Internet web site.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-222n
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	29-452

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a), "section 10-244m" was changed to "10-222m" for accuracy; and in Section 2(b), "reports" was changed to "applications" for accuracy.

PS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

There is no fiscal impact resulting from the bill, which requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), in consultation with the Department of Education (SDE), to update and simplify standards for school security plans and applications that local boards of education must submit to DESPP.

The bill also requires DESPP create criteria for school security consultants operating in the state and submit a report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2020. It is expected that both DESPP and SDE can accomplish the provisions of the bill within existing resources and staffing.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7291*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SECURITY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to (1) update state school security and safety plan standards, (2) simplify certain school security reporting requirements and school security infrastructure grant applications, and (3) develop criteria to identify qualified school security consultants and limit the existing registry to such individuals only. It also adds related duties for the State Department of Education (SDE) and the School Safety Infrastructure Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the requirements concerning the school security consultants registry are effective October 1, 2019.

SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY PLANS

By law, each local and regional board of education (“board”) must develop a school security and safety plan for each school within its district and DESPP, in consultation with SDE, must develop standards for these plans (see BACKGROUND). The bill requires DESPP, in consultation with SDE, to reevaluate and update existing school security and safety plan standards every three years, starting by January 1, 2020. It also requires SDE to distribute the standards to all public schools. Under existing law, DESPP must make the standards available to local officials, including the boards, and submit them annually to the Education and Public Safety and Security committees.

By law, boards must annually (1) review, and if necessary update, the school security and safety plans for each school within their districts, and (2) submit them to DESPP. Additionally, under existing

law, the school security and safety plan standards must require that (1) local law enforcement and other local public safety officials evaluate, score, and provide feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills and (2) the boards annually submit reports to DESPP regarding those drills. The bill requires DESPP to evaluate and simplify the reporting requirements these boards must meet regarding their (1) school security and safety plans and (2) fire and crisis response drills. DESPP must submit a report to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2020, identifying the essential components for these reports and indicating how the department will simplify the requirements. DESPP must implement the new requirements for them based on its findings by July 1, 2020.

SCHOOL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

By law, boards of education can apply to DESPP, on behalf of their town or member towns, for funds under a competitive state grant program to improve security infrastructure in schools (PA 13-3 § 84). Under the bill, DESPP and the School Safety Infrastructure Council must evaluate and simplify the documentation requirements of applications for those grants. Both DESPP and the council must submit a report to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2020, identifying the essential components for these applications and indicating how the department will simplify the requirements. Both DESPP and the council must implement the new requirements based on their findings by July 1, 2020.

SCHOOL SECURITY CONSULTANTS

The bill requires DESPP to (1) develop criteria to identify qualified school security consultants operating in the state and (2) limit its existing school security consultants registry to include only these qualified individuals. (The bill does not provide DESPP with guidance on what must be considered in developing criteria for qualified consultants.) By law, DESPP updates this registry annually, makes it available to the public upon request, and publishes it on the department's website.

BACKGROUND

School Security and Safety Plans

The plans must align with DESPP standards, which, among other things, (1) provide an all-hazards approach to handling emergencies at public schools, (2) require involvement of local education and public safety officials, and (3) require the creation of a security and safety committee at each school (CGS § 10-222n).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/19/2019)