
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 229

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL MAPPING DATA GRANT PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

Beginning with FY 25, this bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to, annually and within available appropriations, administer a program to provide grants to local or regional boards of education for services to give school mapping data that satisfies the bill's requirements (see below).

By October 1, 2024, the department must create eligibility criteria for awarding the grants, develop application forms and deadlines, and post a description of the program on DESPP's website that includes the criteria, forms, and deadlines.

The bill also requires the department, starting by January 1, 2026, to annually report on the program to the Public Safety and Security Committee. The reports must include the following information for the prior calendar year: the number of applications received and grants awarded, and a list of the schools that obtained grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Under the bill, local and regional boards of education may apply for a grant for one or more schools if the school mapping data meets certain requirements. Specifically, when it:

1. is compatible with software platforms used by local, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the school without requiring the agencies to buy more software or pay a fee to view or access the data;

2. is compatible with security software platforms in use by the school without requiring the local law enforcement agencies or school boards to buy more software or pay a fee to view or access the data;
3. is in a printable format and, if requested, in a digital file format that can be integrated into existing interactive mobile platforms;
4. is verified for accuracy by the entity producing the data through a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds being mapped;
5. is oriented true north and overlaid with gridded “x” and “y” coordinates;
6. includes accurate floor plans overlaid on current, verified aerial imagery of the school campus;
7. has site-specific labels that match the (a) structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway names, external door or stairwell numbers, and the location of hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits, as well as (b) school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties;
8. cannot be independently modified or updated without corresponding updates to the data held within the software platforms used by the above public safety agencies serving the school; and
9. will be permanently available to the school board and appropriate public safety agencies at no charge besides the initial cost of producing the data.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/12/2024)