



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL AND AMENDMENT SUMMARY

School Emergency Operation Plans SF 2364

Status of Bill: In House Education

Committee: Education (Passed Senate 50-0)

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Background

SF 2364 was developed by the Department of Education (DE) and the Emergency Management Commission. When it comes to school safety, the DE has had in place for several years, an on-going working group, the Iowa Safe Schools Alliance. Their on-going group has provided webinars on emergency operation planning. They also have resources on training and services, FEMA recommendations as well as sample crisis plans for teachers, staff and administrators.

<https://www.iowaschoolsafety.org/>

The DE guidance to schools in this area includes: 1) Prevention, 2) Protection, 3) Mitigation, 4) Response, and 5) Recovery. The Emergency Management Commission also helps develop security plans for schools.

Bill Summary

Operations Plan

Under the bill school districts and private schools are required to develop a high-quality emergency operations plan for the district and individual school buildings by June 30, 2019. The plan would include but not be limited to responses to active shooter scenarios and natural disasters.

The plan is required to provide that any alert regarding an emergency situation that is transmitted to school personnel or students by electronic means and also be transmitted to the employer of any individual who is not a school employee but who is required as a part of the individual's employment to regularly be present in a school building during the school year (which could possibly be a School Resource Officer (SRO's)). The plan requires the publication of procedures for school personnel, parents, and guardians to report possible threats to the safety of students or school personnel on school grounds or at school activities.

School boards or private schools are to consider any recommendations from DE and requires them to also consult with local emergency management coordinators and local law enforcement agencies in the development of the plan. The plan is required to be reviewed and updated annually, and kept confidential and is exempt from Iowa Public Record laws.

Operations Drill

All school personnel would be required to conduct at least once per school year, an emergency operations drill based on the emergency operations plan in each individual school building in which students are educated. Persons participating in the drill may include students. Nothing in the bill is to be construed to affect school fire and weather drill requirements.

Amendment Summary

H-8277 by Hunter: Teachers Defined as Public Safety Employees Under Chapter 20

The amendment would define Iowa licensed teachers as public safety employees so under Iowa's new collective bargaining law, they could collective bargain for more items than currently.

H-8284 by Winckler, Kurth and Thede: Cash Reserve Budget Adjustment for School Security

The amendment would allow a school district with the regular program district cost per pupil that is less than the highest regular program district cost per pupil to use their cash reserve fund for personnel costs and services that directly affect the safety of students. The amount cannot exceed the difference between the school district's regular program district cost per pupil and the highest regular program district cost per pupil among all school districts in the state multiplied by the district's budget enrollment.

The district would have to adopt the budget adjustment by resolution by May 15 preceding the budget year stating that the board will use funds from its cash reserve for the security purpose, and within ten days of adoption of the resolution they are required to notify the Department of Management of the amount of the budget adjustment to be received. The school district is required to fund the budget adjustment by either using moneys from its unexpended fund balance or by using cash reserve moneys. A budget adjustment received will not affect the eligibility for or amount of any other budget adjustment authorized by law for the same budget year. In addition, a budget adjustment is to be limited to the budget year for which the adjustment was authorized and cannot be included in any computation of a school district's cost for any future budget year.

H-8301 by Mascher: Children's Mental Health Services

The amendment would have three actions:

1. Require a region ensure mental health and disability services are available to children and youth who are residents of the region, regardless of the potential payment source for the services.
2. Make the core mental health services the same for lowans under the age of 18 as those over the age of 18.
3. Move the Mental Health and Disabilities Services Division from DHS to Iowa Department of Public Health.

H-8302 by Hunter: Public Safety Tip Line, Mobile App and Website

The amendment creates a tip line within the Department of Public Safety to report illegal activity around a school including threats of suicide and violence. All reports would be sent to the appropriate school and law enforcement officials with a required disposition on every report sent out detailing the action that was taken and the result. The service would also include a mobile app and website with the ability to take tips.

Seven known states (Colorado, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming) have developed such a program that have been credited with saving lives and stopping threats of violence at schools before they happen. On March 14, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would authorize grants for such programs along with other school safety initiatives. The bill is currently in the U.S. Senate.

H-8276 by Mascher: Removing School Mandates

Under the bill school districts and private schools are required to develop a high-quality emergency operations plan for the district and individual school buildings by June 30, 2019. The amendment allows them to develop plans, but it would not be required, and removes the date requirement as to when it would happen.

The bill requires an alert of an emergency situation be provided to school personnel or students and to the employer of an employee who is not employed by the school district, but is required to be there. The amendment allows an alert to happen, but it would not be required.

The bill requires the plan contain a publication of procedures for school personnel, parents, and guardians to report possible threats to the safety of students or school personnel on school grounds or at school activities. The amendment allows the publication to happen, but it would not be required.

In developing the plan, the bill requires school boards or private schools to consider any recommendations from DE and requires them to also consult with local emergency management coordinators and local law enforcement agencies. The amendment allows them to consider or consult, but it would not be required.

The bill requires the plan to be reviewed and updated annually. Under the amendment, if the board or authorities have implemented a plan, it would be reviewed and updated annually.

The bill requires all school personnel conduct a drill in each school building based on emergency operations plan at least once a year. The amendment allows school personnel to participate in the drill, but it would not be required to do so. The amendment also removes the requirement that the drill be conducted annually.

H-8287 by Staed: Teacher's Secure Room

In the items that would be included in the emergency operation plan, the amendment would add measures for securing a classroom from the inside with the ability of a teacher to lock and secure all classroom entrances including windows and doors.

H-8283 by Breckenridge: Participation in a Drill, and Drill Plan Approval

The bill requires all school personnel to conduct at least once per school year, an emergency operations drill based on the emergency operations plan in each individual school building in which students are educated. Persons participating in the drill may include students.

The amendment eliminates the requirement for all personnel to participate in the drill. Those participating would include but not be limited to, administrators, teachers, secretaries, receptionists, school support staff, and custodians. The drill may also include students. The drill may include but not be limited to a table top exercise, walk through, partial drill or full drill.

Prior to the drill, under the amendment, the authorities in charge of the drill would be required to provide the school board or authorities at a non-public school with a written plan listing equipment and personnel to be used during the drill. A drill cannot be conducted unless the plan is approved by the participating school board or authorities from a non-public school.

H-8279 by Hunter: School Safety Study Committee

The amendment requires DE to designate a member of the Iowa School Safety Committee to establish school safety study committee to make recommendation for the improvement of safety in schools. The committee would consist of the following members:

1. Four law enforcement officers representing rural and urban areas.
2. Four teachers representing rural and urban areas.
3. Four students representing rural and urban areas.
4. A representative of the Iowa emergency management association.
5. Membership of the study committee would also include four members of the General Assembly as ex-officio non-voting members.

The study committee would meet at least three times, and submit its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2018.