

HCS HB 1946 -- SCHOOL SAFETY

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 15 to 3, with 4 voting Present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1946.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (Section 160.480)

This bill requires school districts and charter schools to adopt a comprehensive emergency operations plan to address school safety, crises, and emergency operations. The plan shall be shared with local law enforcement, fire protection services and emergency management. Schools must ensure a physical security site assessment annually and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall develop standards for the emergency operation plans.

STOP THE BLEED ACT (Section 160.485)

The bill establishes the "Stop the Bleed Act", defines "bleeding control kit" and requires DESE to develop a traumatic blood loss protocol for school personnel by January 1, 2025.

The bill outlines the specific requirements for the blood loss protocol, which must include a bleeding control kit be placed in areas where there is likely to be high traffic or congregation, and areas where risk of injury may be elevated. Additionally, each district must designate a school nurse or school health care provider, or, if no school nurse or school health care provider is available, a school personnel member to receive annual training on the use of a blood control kit.

The bill requires DESE and each school district and charter school to maintain information regarding the traumatic blood loss protocol and the Stop the Bleed national awareness campaign on their respective websites.

MISSOURI SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Section 160.660)

The bill requires that, beginning July 1, 2025, the State Board of Education (SBE) modify school safety criteria in the Missouri School Improvement Program to require a primary and secondary school safety coordinator to complete the Federal Emergency

Management Administration's (FEMA) Incident Command System training courses or any successor course created by FEMA to replace the Incident Command System course within one year of being designated a coordinator.

#### SCHOOL SAFETY (Section 160.663)

The bill requires that school districts and charter schools equip each interior door with an anti-intruder door lock and each exterior door with bullet-resistant window film. This requirement is subject to appropriations to cover all costs; however, a school may receive donations, as specified in the bill.

Any exterior or interior door or entryway installed after the effective date of these provisions must be equipped, as specified in the bill, and, by July 1, 2028, all schools must have all existing doors, both exterior and interior, equipped per the specifications in the bills, and develop and implement policies relating to access to individual classrooms and require that doors with windows be equipped with material to cover windows during a building lockdown. Classroom doors with windows and adjoining sidelights must be equipped with material that conceals students and staff in a lockdown while maintaining some limited visibility into the room for first responders.

#### BEHAVIOR RISK ASSESSMENTS (Sections 167.020 and 167.022)

The bill requires behavioral risk assessments to be included in the records to be requested by school officials when enrolling a pupil (Sections 167.020 and 167.022).

#### JUVENILE COURT (Section 167.115)

Currently, school districts must be notified if a petition is filed in juvenile court with specific allegations. This bill expands the current requirements to also include when a charge or indictment is filed, adds the prosecutor to the list of required notifiers, and requires such notice to be within 24 hours and reduces the requirement for a summary of facts from five days to two business days following the case disposition. The bill allows school districts to request an injunction to exclude students from educational services if there is a likelihood of danger to the safety of pupils or employees in the school district (Section 167.115).

#### AGREEMENTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT (Section 167.117)

The bill authorized districts and charter schools to enter into written agreements with law enforcement on procedures for reporting

criminal offenses outlined in the bill and allows for certain offenses for students under 11 years of age to be reported to the Children's Division, within the Department of Social Services (Section 167.117).

#### CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (Section 167.624)

The bill requires that cardiopulmonary resuscitation training be required for school district and charter school employees (Section 167.624).

#### ACTIVE SHOOTER AND INTRUDER RESPONSE TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM (SECTION 170.315)

The bill requires that, beginning in the 2025-26 school year, the Active Shooter and Intruder Response Training for Schools Program be required for teachers and school employees on an annual basis. The bill requires that initial training be eight hours and continuing training be four hours in length.

Currently, public schools are required to foster an environment where students feel comfortable reporting a potentially threatening or dangerous situation with an adult. This bill adds the requirement that schools must annually provide age-appropriate information on the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Courage2ReportMO reporting mechanism. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, schools must annually hold active shooter exercises in which students, teachers, and school employees participate in and practice the procedures for safety and protection to be implemented when an active shooter is present.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

**PROPONENTS:** Supporters say that this bill focuses on all sorts of aspects of school safety, including training to address internal and external threats. It requires school personnel to be trained in stopping bleeding; when there is an emergency it is important to make sure the people on the ground know how to respond. This bill is foundational to good school safety. None of the measures in the bill are required unless funds are appropriated in the budget except for new construction. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will seek out the experts who can develop and provide training for active threats in schools. These requirements apply to public charter schools, too. Supporters say that the training for active shooters provided to children is going to be

age appropriate. The training will also include a component for school bus safety. Supporters say there have been more shootings at high school football games this last year than ever before. More than 250 schools have signed up for active shooter training and hopefully more will sign up. Armed security guards in schools are important and they should have great relationships with students, be good decision makers, and be able to keep kids safe. If help is 20 minutes away, you need to own your own safety. Supporters stated that whether teachers should be armed should depend on the community and how far away help is. Supporters emphasized that only school shooters are responsible for students' death but, if everyone else stands by and does nothing, we are making it easier.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Shields; John McDonald, Missouri School Boards' Association Center For Education Safety; and Travis C. Coleman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say confidential means for students, parents, or teachers to report school violence is currently called Courage2Report. An incident can be reported by app or phone and there is a process and timeline for addressing how tips are handled. When this was started in 2019 they received 419 tips, with 330 tips in 2020, 594 tips in 2021, 1044 tips in 2022, and 1581 tips in 2023. Bullying, assault, and attempt to kill are the top three complaints with bullying being number one..

Testifying in person on the bill was Scott Lance, Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.