HB 416 -- SCHOOL SAFETY

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 10 to 0, with one member voting Present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 10 to 0.

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 will 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) will 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, 2026.

The bill specifies the 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, 2026, 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 or the Incident Command System (ICS) for Schools course provided by the Missouri School Boards' Association's Center for Education Safety (CES) or its successor course created by CES, 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, 2029, 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 the 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. The information can be used to provide an alternative environment for the student's educational services (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 specified 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 2026-27 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 to 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 2026-27 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.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1946 (2024).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when the subject of school safety is brought up, people usually discuss the perimeter of the physical building. This bill broadens the scope of school safety to encompass the total view of safety measures that a school can take, such as tornado and fire drills, active shooter response, and medical emergencies. Supporters further say that school safety must also encompass issues that had been previously considered to be outside of a school's concern, such as social media, gun and gang violence, and online gaming. When students feel safe, they are better learners, and much more secure in their environment.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Shields; Arnie Dienoff; Missouri School Boards' Association's Center For Education Safety; Missouri Sheriffs United; and Travis C. Coleman. OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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.