

HB 3135 -- NATIONAL LIFE SAFETY STANDARDS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

SPONSOR: Plank

This bill requires that each public school district ensure that all protective door assemblies in school buildings are inspected every 12 months. "Protective door assemblies" include firerated doors, doors with panic hardware, electricity controlled egress doors, and doors with special locking systems.

The inspections must be completed by a qualified inspector and must follow the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Protective door assemblies installed on or after January 1, 2015, must comply with the 2015 edition of the code. Assemblies installed before that date must comply with the edition in effect at the time of installation.

If an assembly fails to meet the required standards, the school district must correct the deficiency and obtain a reinspection.

The inspector must provide a written report to the district's board of education indicating whether each assembly:

- (1) Meets the required standards;
- (2) Does not meet the required standards; or
- (3) Does not meet the required standards and presents a significant fire or lifesafety hazard.

School districts must maintain records of all inspections and reinspections. Beginning January 1, 2028, the State Fire Marshal must annually review these records. If a district fails to correct a deficiency within the required time, the Marshal may issue a citation, which must be posted on the district's publicly accessible website. A citation cannot be issued if the district is actively working to correct the deficiency, and no fines may be imposed.

The bill allows the use of temporary doorlocking devices approved by the State Fire Marshal. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Fire Marshal can promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this bill.