

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Public safety officials find schools to be an important part of an integrated community response to many types of emergencies. According to such officials, to respond effectively to emergencies, schools must cooperate with community emergency response experts and others to develop a crisis management plan. To implement such a plan, a school must train staff and students in emergency response procedures; drills and exercises are essential to that training. Emergency drills and exercises are considered more effective if they occur throughout the year and are periodically updated based on the results the drills and exercises.

This bill proposes to require school districts and charter schools to develop a crisis management policy in cooperation with emergency management personnel and others that include school lock-down drills and other emergency drills. It allows the board of school administrators to adopt rules consistent with the requirements in this bill. Finally, the bill establishes a task force to advise the legislature on strengthening K-12 crisis management and school safety efforts.

Section

1 Crisis management policy.

Subd. 1. Model policy. Directs the education commissioner to maintain and make available to school boards and charter schools a model crisis management policy that includes school lock-down, tornado and fire drills.

Subd. 2. School district and charter school policy. Directs school board and charter

Section

schools to develop, in cooperation with school officials, community members, emergency management personnel and others, and then adopt a crisis management policy that includes at least five school lock-down and five school fire drills and one tornado drill each school year.

Makes the section effective for the 2006-2007 school year and later.

2 School safety drills. Directs private schools and educational institutions not subject to section 1 to have at least 5 school lock-down drills, 5 fire drills consistent with section 3, and 1 tornado drill. Makes this section effective for the 2006-2007 school year.

3 Fire drill in school; doors and exits. Directs the state fire marshal to require schools to have at least five fire drills each school year.

Makes the section effective for the 2006-2007 school year and later.

4 Board of school administrators; rule making authority. Allows the Board of School Administrators to adopt expedited rules to reflect the changes in duties, responsibilities and roles of school administrators under this act.

Makes this section effective immediately.

5 Advisory task force on school and staff emergency/all hazard preparedness. (a) Establishes an advisory task force on school and staff emergency/all hazard preparedness to recommend to the legislature proposals for strengthening K-12 crisis management and school safety efforts including, at least, whether or not to: develop teacher and school administrators competencies; provide teachers and school administrators with relevant training; incorporate teacher and school administrator competencies into teacher and school administrator preparation curriculum; identify competencies appropriate to teacher and school administrator preparation curriculum and ongoing teacher and school administrator training; and expect federal funds to supplement these initiatives.

(b) Directs the education commissioner to appoint a task force composed of representatives from the Board of Teaching, the Board of School Administrators, the state fire marshal, law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, school principals, school counselors, nonlicensed school employees, the Minnesota School Boards Association, Education Minnesota, the Minnesota Departments of Education, Health and Public Safety, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota Association of School Administrators, and others recommended by task force members. Makes task force members' terms and related matters subject to the statutory section governing advisory groups. Requires the task force to submit written recommendations to the legislature by February 15, 2007.

(c) Directs the education commissioner to provide the task force with technical, fiscal and other support services upon request.

(d) Causes the task force to expire on February 16, 2007.

Makes this section effective immediately.