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HOUSE BILL NO. 561

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Askew)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to annual school safety audits; items to be reviewed; technology systems.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required.

A. For the purposes of this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

"School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities. The plan shall include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01. The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation

26 Fund shall be the lead coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan
27 shall also contain current contact information for both agencies.

28 "School safety audit" means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to
29 (i) identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security
30 issues, and (ii) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property
31 or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural
32 adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for student
33 conduct.

34 B. The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, in consultation with the Department of
35 Education, shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required
36 by this section. Such items shall include (i) those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to §
37 22.1-279.3:1~~and shall include;~~ (ii) a school inspection walk-through using a standardized checklist
38 provided by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, which shall incorporate crime prevention
39 through environmental design principles; and (iii) specific technology systems, including physical security
40 technologies, emergency telecommunication systems, and associated technology including equipment and
41 software.

42 The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall prescribe a standardized report format
43 for school safety audits, additional reporting criteria, and procedures for report submission, which may
44 include instructions for electronic submission.

45 Each local school board shall require all schools under its supervisory control to annually conduct
46 school safety audits, as defined in this section, consistent with such list and in collaboration with the chief
47 law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. As part of each such audit, the school board shall
48 create a detailed and accurate floor plan for each public school building in the local school division or
49 shall certify that the existing floor plan for each such school is sufficiently detailed and accurate.

50 The results of such school safety audits shall be made public within 90 days of completion pursuant
51 to this subsection. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any
52 security plans, walk-through checklists, floor plans, and specific vulnerability assessment components as

53 provided in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The completed walk-through checklist shall be made available
54 to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. Each school shall maintain a copy of
55 the school safety audit, which may exclude such security plans, walk-through checklists, and vulnerability
56 assessment components, within the office of the school principal and shall make a copy of such report
57 available for review upon written request.

58 Each school shall submit a copy of its school safety audit to the relevant school division
59 superintendent. The division superintendent shall collate and submit all such school safety audits, in the
60 prescribed format and manner of submission, to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety and
61 shall make available to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality the results of such audits for his
62 review and recommendations.

63 C. The division superintendent shall establish a school safety audit committee to include, if
64 available, representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local
65 community services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee
66 shall review the completed school safety audits and submit any plans, as needed, for improving school
67 safety to the division superintendent for submission to the local school board.

68 D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school
69 crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition
70 provided in this section, and shall include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the
71 emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical
72 services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the
73 development of such plans. Each school division shall designate an emergency manager. The Department
74 of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall provide technical assistance to
75 the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, emergency
76 management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the components of a medical
77 emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the
78 training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment
79 required for this emergency response. The local school board, the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire

80 chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional
81 emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their
82 designees, shall annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical
83 emergency response plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit the review
84 of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 4 of §
85 2.2-3705.2. The local school division superintendent shall certify this review in writing to the Virginia
86 Center for School and Campus Safety no later than August 31 of each year.

87 Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for
88 School and Campus Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall
89 develop, and may revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis, emergency management, and
90 medical emergency response plan for the purpose of assisting the public schools in the Commonwealth in
91 developing viable, effective crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Such
92 model shall set forth recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can contact the
93 relevant school or school division regarding the location and safety of their school children and by which
94 school officials may contact parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or emergency.

95 E. Each school board shall ensure that every public school it supervises employs at least one school
96 administrator who has completed, either in-person or online, school safety training for public school
97 personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with subdivision
98 A 1 of § 9.1-184. However, such requirement shall not apply if such required training is not available
99 online.

100 F. Each division superintendent shall annually designate an employee in the local school division
101 as the division safety official whose duty is to receive all reports required pursuant to subsection A of §
102 19.2-83.1 and §§ 19.2-291.1 and 19.2-299.3 and shall include such designation in the collated packet of
103 school safety audits submitted to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to subsection
104 B. The designation required by this subsection shall include updated contact information for the division
105 safety official, including (i) a current mailing address, (ii) a current working daytime phone number, (iii)
106 a current functional email address, and (iv) a current functional fax number. It shall be the duty of the

107 division superintendent to update contact information required by this subsection within 48 hours of any
108 change to such contact information.

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