

HOUSE BILL NO. 873

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Greenhalgh)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and 22.1-280.2:3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school boards; school resource officers; threat assessment team membership; employment.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 9.1-184, 22.1-79.4, and 22.1-280.2:3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9.1-184. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety created; duties.

A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:

1. Provide training for Virginia public school personnel in school safety, on evidence-based antibullying tactics based on the definition of bullying in § 22.1-276.01, and in the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance;

2. Serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions by conducting research, sponsoring workshops, and providing information regarding current school safety concerns, such as conflict management and peer mediation, bullying as defined in § 22.1-276.01, school facility design and technology, current state and federal statutory and regulatory school safety requirements, and legal and constitutional issues regarding school safety and individual rights;

3. Maintain and disseminate information to local school divisions on effective school safety initiatives in Virginia and across the nation;

4. Develop a case management tool for the collection and reporting of data by threat assessment teams pursuant to § 22.1-79.4;

26 5. Collect, analyze, and disseminate various Virginia school safety data, including school safety
27 audit information submitted to it pursuant to § 22.1-279.8, collected by the Department and, in conjunction
28 with the Department of Education, information relating to the activities of school resource officers
29 submitted pursuant to § 22.1-279.10;

30 6. Encourage the development of partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote
31 school safety in Virginia;

32 7. Provide technical assistance to Virginia school divisions in the development and implementation
33 of initiatives promoting school safety, including threat assessment-based protocols with such funds as may
34 be available for such purpose;

35 8. Develop a memorandum of understanding between the Director of the Department of Criminal
36 Justice Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure collaboration and coordination of
37 roles and responsibilities in areas of mutual concern, such as school safety audits and crime prevention;

38 9. Provide training for and certification of school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101 and
39 consistent with § 9.1-110;

40 10. Develop, in conjunction with the Department of State Police, the Department of Behavioral
41 Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Education, a model critical incident response
42 training program for public school personnel and others providing services to schools that shall also be
43 made available to private schools in the Commonwealth;

44 11. In consultation with the Department of Education, provide schools with a model policy for the
45 establishment of threat assessment teams, including procedures for the assessment of and intervention
46 with students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school staff or students; and

47 12. Develop a model memorandum of understanding setting forth the respective roles and
48 responsibilities of local school boards and local law-enforcement agencies regarding the use of school
49 resource officers. Such model memorandum of understanding may be used by local school boards and
50 local law-enforcement agencies to satisfy the requirements of subsection B of § 22.1-280.2:3.

51 B. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Center and, upon request, assist the
52 Center in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

53 § 22.1-79.4. Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.

54 A. Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams,
55 including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the
56 safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for
57 School and Campus Safety (the Center) in accordance with § 9.1-184. Such policies shall include
58 procedures for referrals to community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or treatment,
59 when appropriate.

60 B. The superintendent of each school division may establish a committee charged with oversight
61 of the threat assessment teams operating within the division, which may be an existing committee
62 established by the division. The committee shall include individuals with expertise in human resources,
63 education, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.

64 C. Each division superintendent shall establish, for each school, a threat assessment team that shall
65 include persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement and
66 at least one school resource officer assigned to such school. Threat assessment teams may be established
67 to serve one or more schools as determined by the division superintendent. Each team shall (i) provide
68 guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may
69 represent a threat to the community, school, or self; (ii) identify members of the school community to
70 whom threatening behavior should be reported; and (iii) implement policies adopted by the local school
71 board pursuant to subsection A.

72 D. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to
73 self or others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the division
74 superintendent or his designee. The division superintendent or his designee shall immediately attempt to
75 notify the student's parent or legal guardian. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school division
76 personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

77 E. Each threat assessment team established pursuant to this section shall collect and report to the
78 Center quantitative data on its activities using the case management tool developed by the Center.

79 F. Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an individual poses a threat
80 of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a threat
81 assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in §§ 19.2-389 and 19.2-
82 389.1, and health records, as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03. No member of a threat assessment team shall
83 redisclose any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this section
84 or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to
85 the threat assessment team.

86 **§ 22.1-280.2:3. School resource officers.**

87 ~~The~~ A. Each school board shall enter into a collaborative agreement with the local law-
88 enforcement agency to employ school resource officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, and each local law-
89 enforcement agency shall assign a school resource officer to each public elementary and secondary school
90 in the local school division. However, the Board may grant a waiver to allow the sharing of a school
91 resource officer by more than one public school. The division superintendent shall certify in writing to the
92 Department that the school board has met such requirement no later than August 31 of each year.

93 B. In addition to entering into any collaborative agreement pursuant to subsection A, each school
94 ~~board in each school division in which the local law enforcement agency employs school resource~~
95 ~~officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with such~~ the local law-
96 enforcement agency that sets forth the powers and duties of ~~such~~ school resource officers. The provisions
97 of such memorandum of understanding shall be based on the model memorandum of understanding
98 developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to subdivision A 12 of § 9.1-
99 184, which may be modified by the parties in accordance with their particular needs. Each such school
100 board and local law-enforcement agency shall review and amend or affirm such memorandum at least
101 once every two years or at any time upon the request of either party. Each school board shall ensure the
102 current division memorandum of understanding is conspicuously published on the division website and
103 provide notice and opportunity for public input during each memorandum of understanding review period.

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