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1 SB98
2 E8MB992-1
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6 RFD: Education Policy
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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish the School Security Program within the State Department of Education, to require periodic inspections of school facilities at public K-12 schools.

This bill would provide criteria for school security inspections and would require each local board of education to be graded based on its compliance with the criteria.

This bill would establish the School Security and Fire Safety Fund within the State Department of Education to provide grants to qualifying local boards of education for the purpose of seeking compliance with school security criteria and recommendations of the state Fire Marshal related to fire safety.

This bill would establish the School Mapping Data Program within the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) to provide accurate maps for each school in this state.

This bill would provide parameters for school mapping data and would require the data to be shared with various law enforcement and public safety agencies.

This bill would also require the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement and administer



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the School Security Program and ALEA to adopt rules to implement and administer the School Mapping Data Program.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 school safety and security; to create the School Security Program to require periodic inspections of school security of public K-12 schools and facilities; to require the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer and implement the program; to require local boards of education to be graded based on compliance with school security criteria; to create the School Security and Fire Safety Fund; to provide for grants for qualifying local boards of education; to establish the School Mapping Data Program and require ALEA to adopt rules to administer and implement that program; to provide criteria for school maps; and to provide for the distribution of school mapping data to certain law enforcement and public safety agencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the School Security Act.

Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:



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(1) ALEA. The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.

(2) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

(3) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

(4) SCHOOL. Any public K-12 school.

(5) SCHOOL FACILITY. Any building operated in connection with a school including, but not limited to, those housing classrooms, administration, or athletic facilities.

Section 3. (a) (1) There is established the School Security Program. The board shall adopt rules to implement and administer the program pursuant to this act.

(2) The board shall require that at least once every five years, the school facilities under the jurisdiction of each local board of education shall be inspected by at least one school security inspector to determine the compliance of the school facility and the local board of education with the school security criteria established pursuant to subsection (b) .

(b) (1) The board shall establish criteria for school security inspections. The criteria shall be established in consultation with the department's regional school safety coordinators and any other entities or individuals as determined by the board. The criteria shall include a rubric that school security inspectors must use to evaluate each school facility during an inspection. The rubric shall include, but not be limited to, standards for each of the following:

a. Security cameras.

b. Alarm systems.



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c. Locks on exterior and interior doors.

d. Emergency escapes.

e. Any other physical measures used to strengthen the security of school facilities and school grounds, including, but not limited to, criteria related to intrusion detection, fencing, and windows.

(2) The board shall periodically review and update the criteria and rubric to ensure that both accurately reflect current best practices relating to school security.

(c) Inspections under this chapter shall be completed by one or more school security inspectors. The board shall adopt rules relating to the selection of school security inspectors. School security inspectors shall be neutral and nonbiased individuals with some background experience relating to school security or school facilities, as determined by the board. Possible school security inspectors include, but are not limited to, retired law enforcement officers. A regional school safety coordinator may not be a school security inspector but may attend school security inspections for the purposes of reviewing the accuracy and currentness of school security criteria and rubric.

(d)(1) Following an inspection, the school security inspector who conducted the inspection shall provide each school facility with a school security letter grade. The school security inspector shall also provide each local board of education that he or she inspects with a cumulative school security letter grade and recommendations to improve school security.



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(2) A school security letter grade may be an A, B, C, D, or F. An "A" grade shall indicate the highest level of compliance with the school security criteria, while an "F" grade shall indicate a failure to comply.

(e)(1) The School Security and Fire Safety Fund is created within the State Department of Education.

(2)a. The board may award grants to local boards of education to assist those local boards in complying with the school security criteria established pursuant to subdivision (b).

b. The board may award grants to local boards of education to assist those local boards in complying with fire safety recommendations made by the state Fire Marshal or his or her assistants, as defined by Section 36-19-3, Code of Alabama 1975.

(3) A local board of education that receives a grant from the fund shall ensure that the expenditure of any grant funds will be used to improve school facilities in compliance with the state building code and rules adopted by the board, including rules related to school facilities.

(4) The board shall develop an application form and adopt procedures for the administration of the fund, including for the development of application criteria. The board shall prioritize local boards of education that received a cumulative letter grade of "D" or "F" rating following its school security inspection and local boards of education that have completed a facilities assessment through the department's regional school safety training program.



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(5) Any monies appropriated shall be budgeted and allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of Chapter 4 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the amounts provided by the Legislature in the general appropriations act or other appropriations act.

Section 4. (a) A School Mapping Data Program is established within the Homeland Security department of ALEA to provide accurate maps of each school in the state for use in the case of an emergency. ALEA shall adopt rules to implement and administer the program pursuant to this act.

(b) (1) ALEA shall collaborate with local boards of education to collect accurate mapping data for each school in this state. School mapping data shall include accurate floor plans of each school overlaid on current, verified aerial imagery of the campus and shall meet all of the following requirements:

a. Be oriented true north.

b. Be verified by the entity producing the data for accuracy by a walk-through of school buildings and grounds.

c. Contain site-specific labeling that matches the structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway names, and external door or stairwell numbers and locations of hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits.

d. Contain site-specific labeling that matches the school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties.



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e. Be overlaid with gridded x and y coordinates.

(2) Updates to school mapping data shall be completed as deemed necessary by ALEA. Any updates to school mapping data shall be accessible within software platforms used by the local, county, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the specific school.

(c) School mapping data shall be provided to each local board of education, local law enforcement agency, and public safety agency for use in response to emergencies. For the purposes of this section, emergencies include, but are not limited to, any event in which one or more law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squads, emergency medical services providers, public safety telecommunications, or other emergency management provider may respond.

(d)(1) School mapping data shall be compatible with software platforms used by local, county, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the school for which the data is provided. School mapping data shall be compatible with security software platforms in use by the public K-12 school for which the data is provided.

(2) School mapping data shall be available in a printable format and, if requested by a public safety agency, local law enforcement agency, or local board of education, be in a digital format that may be integrated into interactive mobile platforms in use.

(e) No entity including, but not limited to, a law enforcement agency, local board of education, or public safety agency, may be required to purchase additional software or pay



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197 a fee to view or access school mapping data through the School
198 Mapping Data Program.

199 Section 5. This act shall become effective on October
200 1, 2024.