

AMENDMENTS TO LB322

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM464)

Introduced by Williams, 36.

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
2 insert the following new sections:

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be
4 cited as the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act.

5 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has
6 impacted the health and well-being of students throughout Nebraska,
7 resulting in the need for a scalable support system and report line to
8 enhance the safety and well-being of students in each elementary and
9 secondary school.

10 Sec. 3. For purposes of the School Safety and Security Reporting
11 System Act:

12 (1) Concerning behavior includes, but is not limited to, suicide,
13 bullying, stalking behavior, cyber or electronic harassment, bomb threat,
14 family violence, physical or sexual abuse, threat to property, behavior
15 indicative of terrorism, assault or attack, inappropriate weapons use,
16 concern about mental health or substance use, sexual exploitation or
17 predation, and any direct or indirect threatening statement;

18 (2) Department means the State Department of Education or the state
19 school security director;

20 (3) Mental health professional means a school psychologist, social
21 worker, or licensed mental health professional;

22 (4) Report line staff means the staff of the Safe2HelpNE report line
23 as provided in subsection (4) of section 4 of this act;

24 (5) Safe2HelpNE report line means the reporting system established
25 pursuant to section 4 of this act;

26 (6) Threat assessment means an evidence-based process to reduce

1 potential risks and incidents of violence resulting in harm to one or
2 more persons or school property; and

3 (7) Threat assessment team means a school-based team of at least
4 five members who have completed the training required pursuant to section
5 5 of this act and includes, but is not limited to, the principal or
6 principal's designee, a mental health professional, and a member of the
7 school staff.

8 Sec. 4. (1) The department shall establish the Safe2HelpNE report
9 line as a statewide, anonymous reporting system to support threat
10 assessment teams and reduce potential risks and incidents of violence
11 resulting in harm to self, others, or school property.

12 (2) The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be multi-modal to allow
13 students, school staff, parents, and community members to anonymously
14 report concerns and information about concerning behavior or possible
15 harm to persons or property by telephone call, mobile application, web
16 site, or email without charge. The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be
17 available to any public or nonpublic school that has a threat assessment
18 team and that maintains a current list of the contact information for at
19 least five team members designated to receive alerts from staff at any
20 time of the day or night.

21 (3) Except as otherwise required by law, the identity of any
22 individual who contacts the Safe2HelpNE report line shall be confidential
23 and shall not be revealed.

24 (4) The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be staffed seven days per week
25 and twenty-four hours per day by professionals trained to receive
26 concerns, use de-escalation techniques to minimize law enforcement
27 involvement, and alert the appropriate threat assessment team for review,
28 assessment, and action to protect persons and property. The report line
29 staff shall also be trained in threat assessment and management
30 processes, suicide prevention, recognizing mental illness and emotional
31 disturbance, and applicable confidentiality and privacy laws. The report

1 line staff shall have access to clinical consultation and support seven
2 days per week and twenty-four hours per day from a licensed mental health
3 professional.

4 (5) The report line staff shall immediately alert the appropriate
5 threat assessment team of any concern directly regarding a student,
6 school staff member, or school property or that is likely to impact a
7 student, school staff member, or school property. If there is an
8 immediate life safety concern, emergency services shall be contacted
9 prior to any threat assessment team. Each alert that is not referred to
10 emergency services, law enforcement, or child protective services shall
11 be assessed by the threat assessment team receiving such alert. If a
12 threat assessment team decides a report regarding a student is credible,
13 a representative of the school administration shall, within a reasonable
14 period of time, attempt to notify a parent or guardian of the student
15 except when such notification could reasonably be believed to contribute
16 to the endangerment of the student or others. Such notification or
17 attempted notification shall be documented in a manner prescribed by the
18 department.

19 (6) The department shall track and evaluate the effectiveness and
20 usage of the Safe2HelpNE report line. The report line staff shall report
21 the number of calls received, disposition of calls, referrals made to
22 threat assessment teams, and other metrics as determined by and in the
23 manner prescribed by the department.

24 (7) Any information or material in the possession of the threat
25 assessment team shall remain separate from educational records and shall
26 be considered security records.

27 Sec. 5. The department shall provide training for the members of
28 any threat assessment team serving a public or nonpublic school. Such
29 training shall provide the knowledge and skill to allow threat assessment
30 teams to work collaboratively to conduct threat assessments, engage in
31 crisis intervention, increase awareness of concerning behavior among

1 school staff, students, and the public, and interrupt violence in the
2 planning stage to thwart potential harm to persons and property.

3 Sec. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature that federal funds
4 shall be used to implement the School Safety and Security Reporting
5 System Act for fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. The
6 Commissioner of Education shall electronically report data, a cost-
7 benefit analysis, and a funding recommendation regarding the continued
8 viability of the Safe2HelpNE report line to the Appropriation Committee
9 of the Legislature and the Education Committee of the Legislature on or
10 before January 5, 2024.

11 Sec. 7. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
12 regulations to carry out the School Safety and Security Reporting System
13 Act.

14 Sec. 8. Section 79-2,144, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2020, is amended to read:

16 79-2,144 The state school security director appointed pursuant to
17 section 79-2,143 shall be responsible for providing leadership and
18 support for safety and security for the public schools. Duties of the
19 director include, but are not limited to:

20 (1) Collecting safety and security plans, required pursuant to rules
21 and regulations of the State Department of Education relating to
22 accreditation of schools, and other school security information from each
23 school system in Nebraska. School districts shall provide the state
24 school security director with the safety and security plans of the school
25 district and any other security information requested by the director,
26 but any plans or information submitted by a school district may be
27 withheld by the department pursuant to subdivision (8) of section
28 84-712.05;

29 (2) Recommending minimum standards for school security on or before
30 January 1, 2016, to the State Board of Education;

31 (3) Conducting an assessment of the security of each public school

1 building, which assessment shall be completed by August 31, 2019;

2 (4) Identifying deficiencies in school security based on the minimum
3 standards adopted by the State Board of Education and making
4 recommendations to school boards for remedying such deficiencies;

5 (5) Establishing security awareness and preparedness tools and
6 training programs for public school staff;

7 (6) Establishing research-based model instructional programs for
8 staff, students, and parents to address the underlying causes for violent
9 attacks on schools;

10 (7) Overseeing suicide awareness and prevention training in public
11 schools pursuant to section 79-2,146;

12 (8) Establishing tornado preparedness standards which shall include,
13 but not be limited to, ensuring that every school conducts at least two
14 tornado drills per year;

15 (9) Responding to inquiries and requests for assistance relating to
16 school security from private, denominational, and parochial schools;~~and~~

17 (10) Recommending curricular and extracurricular materials to assist
18 school districts in preventing and responding to cyberbullying and
19 digital citizenship issues; and -

20 (11) Carrying out the department's responsibilities under the School
21 Safety and Security Reporting System Act.

22 Sec. 9. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2021.

23 Sec. 10. Original section 79-2,144, Revised Statutes Cumulative
24 Supplement, 2020, is repealed.

25 Sec. 11. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
26 passed and approved according to law.