

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 322**

Introduced by Williams, 36.

Read first time January 13, 2021

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-2,144, Revised
- 2 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to adopt the School Safety and
- 3 Security Reporting System Act; to harmonize provisions; and to
- 4 repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the School Safety and Security Reporting  
4 System Act:

5           (1) Department means the State Department of Education or the state  
6 school security director;

7           (2) Mental health professional means a school psychologist, social  
8 worker, or licensed mental health professional;

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

16           (4) Threat assessment means an evidence-based process to reduce  
17 potential risks and incidents of violence resulting in harm to one or  
18 more persons or school property; and

19           (5) Threat assessment team means a school-based team of at least  
20 five members who have completed the training required pursuant to section  
21 4 of this act and includes, but is not limited to, the principal or  
22 principal's designee, a mental health professional, and a member of the  
23 school staff.

24           Sec. 3. (1) The department shall establish a statewide, anonymous  
25 reporting system to support threat assessment teams and reduce risk and  
26 incidents of violence resulting in harm to self, others, or school  
27 property. Such reporting system shall be named and known as the  
28 Safe2HelpNE report line.

29           (2) The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be multi-modal to allow  
30 students, school staff, parents, and community members to anonymously  
31 report concerns and information about a threat or possible harm to people

1 or property by telephone call, text, web site, or email without charge.  
2 The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be available to any public or nonpublic  
3 school that has a threat assessment team and that maintains a current  
4 list of the contact information for at least five team members designated  
5 to receive alerts from report line staff at any time of the day or night.

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

9 (4) The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be staffed seven days per week  
10 and twenty-four hours per day by professionals trained to receive  
11 concerns, use de-escalation techniques to minimize law enforcement  
12 involvement, and alert the appropriate threat assessment team for review,  
13 assessment, and action to protect people and property. Such staff shall  
14 also be trained in threat assessment and management processes, suicide  
15 prevention, recognizing mental illness and emotional disturbance, and  
16 applicable confidentiality and privacy laws. The staff of the Safe2HelpNE  
17 report line shall have access to clinical consultation and support seven  
18 days per week and twenty-four hours per day from a licensed mental health  
19 professional.

20 (5) The Safe2HelpNE report line staff shall immediately alert the  
21 appropriate threat assessment team of any concern directly regarding a  
22 student, school staff member, or school property or that is likely to  
23 impact a student, school staff member, or school property. If there is an  
24 immediate life safety concern, emergency services shall be contacted  
25 prior to any threat assessment team. Each alert shall be assessed by the  
26 threat assessment team receiving such alert.

27 (6) Each threat assessment team shall report the team's response to  
28 any alert received from the Safe2HelpNE report line to the department in  
29 the manner prescribed by the department. The department shall track all  
30 concerns received by the Safe2HelpNE report line and any action taken by  
31 the staff of the report line or by a threat assessment team.

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

4           Sec. 4. The department shall provide training for the members of  
5 any threat assessment team serving a public or nonpublic school. Such  
6 training shall provide the knowledge and skill to allow threat assessment  
7 teams to work collaboratively to conduct threat assessments, increase  
8 awareness of threats among school staff, students, and the public, and  
9 interrupt violence in the planning stage to thwart potential harm to  
10 people and property.

11           Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate money  
12 from the General Fund for the Safe2HelpNE report line for ten years. At  
13 the end of the ten years, the department shall electronically report  
14 cost-benefit data and recommendations regarding the continued viability  
15 of the Safe2HelpNE report line to the Education Committee of the  
16 Legislature.

17           Sec. 6. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and  
18 regulations to carry out the School Safety and Security Reporting System  
19 Act.

20           Sec. 7. Section 79-2,144, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
21 2020, is amended to read:

22           79-2,144 The state school security director appointed pursuant to  
23 section 79-2,143 shall be responsible for providing leadership and  
24 support for safety and security for the public schools. Duties of the  
25 director include, but are not limited to:

26           (1) Collecting safety and security plans, required pursuant to rules  
27 and regulations of the State Department of Education relating to  
28 accreditation of schools, and other school security information from each  
29 school system in Nebraska. School districts shall provide the state  
30 school security director with the safety and security plans of the school  
31 district and any other security information requested by the director,

1 but any plans or information submitted by a school district may be  
2 withheld by the department pursuant to subdivision (8) of section  
3 84-712.05;

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

6 (3) Conducting an assessment of the security of each public school  
7 building, which assessment shall be completed by August 31, 2019;

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (10) Recommending curricular and extracurricular materials to assist  
24 school districts in preventing and responding to cyberbullying and  
25 digital citizenship issues; and -

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

28 Sec. 8. Original section 79-2,144, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
29 Supplement, 2020, is repealed.