

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the joint use of public school
 3 facilities; creating s. 1013.105, F.S.; providing
 4 legislative findings; encouraging each district school
 5 board to adopt written policies to promote public
 6 access to outdoor recreation and sports facilities on
 7 school property, to increase the number of joint-use
 8 agreements, and to develop and adopt policies and
 9 procedures for an appeal process if negotiations for a
 10 joint-use agreement fail; providing duties of district
 11 school boards and the Department of Education;
 12 creating s. 768.072, F.S.; providing immunity from
 13 liability for a district school board that adopts
 14 public access policies or enters into a joint-use
 15 agreement except in instances of gross negligence or
 16 intentional misconduct; providing application;
 17 providing an effective date.

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 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 21 Section 1. Section 1013.105, Florida Statutes is created
 22 to read:

23 1013.105 Joint use of public school facilities.-

24 (1) The Legislature finds that greater access to
 25 recreation and sports facilities is needed to reduce the impact
 26 of obesity on personal health and health care expenditures. The
 27 Legislature further finds that public schools are equipped with
 28 taxpayer-funded playgrounds, fields, tracks, courts, and other

29 outdoor recreation and sports facilities that offer easily
30 accessible opportunities for physical activity for residents of
31 the community.

32 (2) Each district school board is encouraged to:

33 (a) Adopt written policies to promote public access to the
34 outdoor recreation and sports facilities on public school
35 property during nonschool hours when a school-sponsored or
36 school-related activity is not occurring. A public access policy
37 should outline the outdoor recreation and sports facilities that
38 are open to the public and the hours the facilities are open.

39 (b) Increase the number of joint-use agreements entered
40 into with a local government or a private organization. A joint-
41 use agreement should set forth the terms and conditions for the
42 shared use of outdoor recreation and sports facilities on public
43 school property.

44 (c) Develop and adopt policies and procedures providing
45 for an appeal process in which a party seeking to enter into a
46 joint-use agreement with a school district pursuant to this
47 section may file an appeal with the district school
48 superintendent if the negotiations for such joint-use agreement
49 fail.

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51 Within 30 days after adopting a public access policy or entering
52 into a joint-use agreement, a district school board must submit
53 a copy of the policy or agreement to the Department of
54 Education.

55 (3) The Department of Education shall:

56 (a) Develop a model joint-use agreement and post the model

57 agreement on its website.

58 (b) Post on its website links to or copies of all district
 59 school board public access policies and joint-use agreements
 60 submitted to the department by a district school board.

61 (c) Develop criteria for the acceptance of grants for
 62 implementing joint-use agreements and post the criteria on its
 63 website.

64 Section 2. Section 768.072, Florida Statutes, is created
 65 to read:

66 768.072 Limitation on public school premises liability.-

67 (1) A district school board is not liable for civil
 68 damages for personal injury, property damage, or death that
 69 occurs on a public school property that the district school
 70 board has opened up to the public, through public access
 71 policies or joint-use agreements under s. 1013.105, unless gross
 72 negligence or intentional misconduct on the part of the district
 73 school board is a proximate cause of the injury, damage, or
 74 death.

75 (2) This section does not change liability for injury,
 76 damage, or death that occurs during school hours or during a
 77 school-related or school-sponsored activity.

78 (3) Nothing in this section shall be deemed a waiver of
 79 sovereign immunity beyond the limited waiver in s. 768.28.

80 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.