

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

BILL: SB 494

INTRODUCER: Senator Negron

SUBJECT: Student Safety

DATE: February 2, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carrouth	deMarsh-Mathues	ED	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	MS	_____
3.	_____	_____	BC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill requires the agency responsible for notifying a school district for each type of emergency to be listed in each district school board’s emergency response policy and in its model emergency management and preparedness procedures. The emergency response agencies listed must notify private schools in the school district of occurrences that threaten student safety, if the private school requests such notification by opting into the district school board’s emergency notification procedures.

This bill amends sections 1002.42, and 1006.07 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Florida law requires each district school board to establish emergency response policies and model emergency management and preparedness procedures. Emergency response policies must include procedures for responding to fires, natural disasters, and bomb threats. Commonly used alarm system responses for specific types of emergencies must be incorporated into such policies.¹ Additionally, district school boards must establish model emergency management and preparedness procedures for weapon-use and hostage situations; hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills; weather emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms; and exposure resulting from manmade emergencies.²

¹ s. 1006.07(4)(a), F.S.

² s. 1006.07(4)(b), F.S.

Florida law does not expressly require that school district emergency response policies and model emergency management and preparedness procedures list the agencies responsible for notifying the school district regarding emergencies. However, cooperation with emergency response agencies is incorporated into the *Safety and Security Best Practices*, a self-assessment tool that each school district must use to annually assess the effectiveness of district emergency response policies.³ Among other best practices, the self-assessment suggests that school districts:

- Make arrangements to work with local emergency officials, including, without limitation, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management, hospitals, mental health and health agencies, social services agencies, and court officials.
- Share comprehensive school safety plans and emergency procedures with appropriate emergency response agencies.
- Implement procedures for contacting all district schools simultaneously regarding an emergency.⁴

Private school emergency policies are not regulated by the state.⁵ Private schools typically make arrangements to receive notification of emergencies from the appropriate emergency response agency.⁶ Despite such arrangements, private schools do not always receive notification.⁷ Florida law does not expressly authorize private schools to opt into district school board emergency notification procedures for the purpose of receiving notification of emergencies from an emergency response agency.⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires the agency responsible for notifying a school district for each type of emergency to be listed in each district school board's emergency response policy and in its model emergency management and preparedness procedures. The emergency response agencies listed must notify private schools in the school district of occurrences that threaten student safety if the private school requests such notification by opting into the district school board's emergency notification procedures. This provision will ensure that all schools are notified in the event of an emergency.

³ s. 1006.07(6), F.S.

⁴ s. 1006.07(6), F.S. Florida Department of Education, *District Safety and Security Best Practices*, <http://www.fldoe.org/EM/security-practices.asp>. The Best Practices are developed by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. Each district school superintendent must make recommendations to the school board for improving emergency response policies based upon the self-assessment results. The self-assessment results and superintendent's recommendations must be addressed in a publicly noticed school board meeting. The results of the self-assessment and any school board action on the superintendent's recommendations must be reported to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days after the school board meeting. See <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/Summary.aspx?reportNum=01-57>.

⁵ s. 1002.42(2)(h), states, in part, "It is the intent of the Legislature not to regulate, control, approve, or accredit private educational institutions..."

⁶ Telephone correspondence with the Executive Director, Florida Council of Independent Schools, February 2, 2012.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ s. 1002.42, F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The cost, if any, incurred by emergency response agencies to implement the bill is unknown.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.