

**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 Committee on Education

BILL: SB 284

INTRODUCER: Negron

SUBJECT: Student Safety

DATE: March 12, 2013

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Graf	Klebacha	ED	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			MS	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

**I. Summary:**

SB 284 establishes a process through which a private school can register to be notified at the same time the public school district is notified about an emergency occurrence in the local area that could threaten student safety.

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 model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures. The emergency response agencies identified by a district school board must notify private schools within the school district of occurrences that threaten student safety if such private schools request notification of emergencies by opting into the district school board’s emergency notification procedures. Currently, Florida law does not expressly authorize private schools to opt into district school board emergency notification procedures for the purpose of receiving emergency notifications.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

The 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 emergency preparedness procedures. Emergency response policies must include procedures for responding to fires, natural disasters, and bomb threats. Additionally, district school board policies must include commonly used alarm system responses

for specific types of emergencies and verification by each school that emergency drills are provided in accordance with law and fire protection codes.<sup>1</sup>

District school boards must also 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.<sup>2</sup>

Florida law does not expressly require that a district school board's emergency response policies and model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures list the agencies responsible for notifying the school district regarding emergencies. However, cooperation with emergency response agencies is incorporated into the *District Safety and Security Best Practices*, a self-assessment tool that each school district must use to annually assess the effectiveness of a district school board's emergency response policies.<sup>3</sup> Among other "best practices," the self-assessment tool suggests that school districts:<sup>4</sup>

- Make arrangements to work with local emergency officials, including, without limitation, law enforcement; fire department; emergency management; hospital, mental health, health, and social services agencies; and court officials.
- Share comprehensive school safety plans and emergency procedures with appropriate emergency response agencies.
- Implement procedures for contacting all schools simultaneously in the event of a districtwide emergency.

Private schools' emergency response policies are not regulated by the state.<sup>5</sup> Private schools typically make arrangements to receive notification of emergencies from the appropriate emergency response agency. Despite such arrangements, private schools do not always receive notification of emergencies.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1006.07(4)(a), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 1006.07(4)(b), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1006.07(6), F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *2012 Safety and Security Best Practices (Year 11)*, <http://www.fldoe.org/EM/security-practices.asp> (last visited March 10, 2013). The Best Practices are developed by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability. Each district school superintendent must make recommendations to the district school board regarding strategies and activities to improve school safety and security based on the self-assessment results. The results of the self-assessment and any action by a district school board based on the district school superintendent's recommendations must be reported to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days after the district school board meeting. Section 1006.07(6), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Florida Department of Education, *2012 Safety and Security Best Practices (Year 11)*, <http://www.fldoe.org/EM/security-practices.asp> (last visited March 10, 2013).

<sup>5</sup> Telephone interview with staff, Governmental Relations, Florida Department of Education (March 11, 2013).

<sup>6</sup> Telephone interview with the Executive Director, Florida Council of Independent Schools (March 7, 2013).

<sup>7</sup> See Section 1002.42, F.S.; see also Florida Department of Education, *2013 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 284* (Feb. 18, 2013).

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SB 284 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 model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures. The emergency response agencies identified by a district school board must notify private schools within the school district of occurrences that threaten student safety if such private schools request notification of emergencies by opting into the district school board's emergency notification procedures. The bill enables private schools to receive notification of emergencies on the same basis as district public schools.

**Other Potential Implications:****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:**

None.

**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.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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