

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the safety of students; amending s.
3 30.15, F.S.; revising the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron
4 Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to
5 include child care facilities; requiring a sheriff to
6 establish a guardian program under certain
7 circumstances; requiring certain security guards to
8 meet specified school guardian training and screening
9 requirements; requiring a child care facility or
10 security agency to be responsible for all costs
11 related to the guardian program; authorizing a sheriff
12 to waive such costs for a child care facility;
13 prohibiting a sheriff from waiving costs for initial
14 training of a school security guard; authorizing a
15 sheriff to certify a person as a school security guard
16 if he or she meets specified criteria; revising
17 firearm requirements for school guardians and school
18 security guards; authorizing a sheriff to issue
19 certificates to school security guards who meet
20 specified requirements; requiring a sheriff to
21 maintain specified documentation; requiring a child
22 care facility or employing security agency to make
23 specified reports; requiring the Department of Law
24 Enforcement to maintain specified records; requiring a
25 sheriff to make specified reports of certain school

26 guardian or school security guard trainings;
27 prohibiting a child care facility from operating a
28 school guardian program under certain circumstances;
29 amending s. 402.305, F.S.; authorizing a child care
30 facility to partner with specified entities to
31 establish or assign safe-school officers and
32 participate in the guardian program; requiring a child
33 care facility to pay for the full cost of the guardian
34 program; requiring compliance with specified
35 provisions relating to safe-school officers; providing
36 construction; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring
37 specified school safety requirements to be implemented
38 during specified time periods; revising the
39 requirements for certain gates and campus access
40 points to be open or unlocked; providing that certain
41 instructional spaces for career and technical
42 education are exempt from specified requirements under
43 certain circumstances; providing that certain
44 provisions apply to common areas on school campuses;
45 providing exemptions from certain requirements for
46 doors, gates, and campus access points; providing
47 requirements for locked barriers between classrooms
48 and open school campuses; requiring certain protocols
49 and policies to be provided to substitute teachers;
50 amending s. 1006.12, F.S.; requiring a sheriff to

51 conduct specified training; requiring that certain
52 reports be submitted to a school security guard's
53 employing agency; requiring a sheriff's approval
54 before a school security guard's employment in a
55 county; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to
56 provide specified information to the Department of Law
57 Enforcement; providing an effective date.
58

59 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
60

61 **Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section**
62 **30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

63 30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

64 (1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or
65 by deputy, shall:

66 (k) Assist district school boards and charter school
67 governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child
68 care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options
69 in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must, at a minimum, provide access to
70 a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian
71 Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active
72 assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this
73 paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to
74 this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement
75 capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an

76 active assailant incident.

77 1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to
78 implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of
79 school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s.
80 1006.12, the sheriff in that county shall establish a guardian
81 program to provide training for school guardians or school
82 security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school
83 district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school, child care
84 facility, or security agency employees, either directly or
85 through a contract with another sheriff's office that has
86 established a guardian program. The security agency employing a
87 school security guard is responsible for all training and
88 screening-related costs for a school security guard.

89 b. A charter school governing board in a school district
90 that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian
91 program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a
92 guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school
93 employees or school security guards consistent with the
94 requirements of subparagraph 2. If the county sheriff denies the
95 request, the charter school governing board may contract with a
96 sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such
97 training. The charter school governing board must notify the
98 superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of
99 the contract prior to its execution. The security agency
100 employing a school security guard is responsible for all

101 training and screening-related costs for a school security
102 guard.

103 c. A private school or child care facility in a school
104 district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a
105 guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of
106 the private school or child care facility establish a guardian
107 program for the purpose of training private school employees,
108 child care facility employees, or school security guards. If the
109 county sheriff denies the request, the private school or child
110 care facility may contract with a sheriff from another county
111 who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to
112 provide such training. The private school or child care facility
113 must notify the sheriff in the private school's or child care
114 facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from another
115 county before its execution. The private school, child care
116 facility, or security agency is responsible for all training and
117 screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The
118 sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid
119 by a private school, child care facility, or security agency are
120 not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the
121 sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-
122 related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

123 d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.
124 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff
125 providing such training shall adhere to the course of

126 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This
127 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing
128 additional training. A school guardian or school security guard
129 who has completed the training program required in sub-
130 subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another
131 sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph
132 unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her
133 appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as
134 a school security guard in a school.

135 e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to
136 subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees
137 will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related
138 costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each
139 school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

140 f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-
141 related costs for a private school or child care facility for a
142 school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-
143 subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have
144 been waived by the sheriff. The sheriff may not waive the
145 training and screening-related costs required to be paid by a
146 security agency for initial training or ongoing training of a
147 school security guard.

148 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under
149 the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission,
150 who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who

151 is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or
152 school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or
153 school security guard by the sheriff without completing the
154 training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person
155 certified as a school guardian or school security guard under
156 this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-
157 subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

158 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with
159 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding
160 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as
161 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,
162 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school
163 security guards those persons employed by a security agency who
164 meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

165 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are
166 otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under
167 chapter 790.

168 b. After satisfying the requirements of s. 1006.12(7),
169 complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of
170 training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills
171 necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school
172 premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and
173 proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and
174 Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

175 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the

176 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law
177 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least
178 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than
179 associated with academy training. Program participants must
180 achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

181 (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

182 (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction
183 using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

184 (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or
185 assailant scenarios.

186 (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

187 (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

188 c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
189 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
190 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
191 evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law
192 Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with
193 mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this
194 paragraph.

195 d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
196 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.
197 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

198 e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon
199 inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual
200 basis.

201
202 The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the
203 training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g.
204 shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet
205 the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the
206 sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and
207 equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,
208 inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian
209 certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this
210 paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3)
211 only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district
212 superintendent, charter school principal, ~~or~~ private school head
213 of school, or child care facility owner. A sheriff who conducts
214 the training for a school security guard or waives the training
215 requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and
216 determines that the school security guard has met all the
217 requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security
218 guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this
219 section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain
220 documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training,
221 certification, and qualification records for each school
222 security guard certified by the sheriff.

223 3.a. ~~(I)~~ Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or
224 school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the
225 certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the

226 name, date of birth, and certification date of the school
227 guardian or school security guard.

228 ~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a~~
229 ~~school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law~~
230 ~~Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of~~
231 ~~each school guardian who received a certificate from the~~
232 ~~sheriff.~~

233 b.(I) By February 1 and September 1 of each school year,
234 each school district, charter school, ~~and~~ private school, child
235 care facility, and employing security agency must report in the
236 manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the name,
237 date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as
238 a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. The
239 school district, charter school, ~~and~~ private school, child care
240 facility, and employing security agency must also report in the
241 manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the date
242 each school guardian or school security guard separates from his
243 or her appointment as a school guardian or employment as a
244 school security guard in a school.

245 ~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter~~
246 ~~school, and private school must report to the Department of Law~~
247 ~~Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-~~
248 ~~appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a~~
249 ~~school guardian.~~

250 c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list

251 of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a
252 school security guard in the state. The list must include the
253 name and certification date of each school guardian and school
254 security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school
255 guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the
256 name of the school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school,
257 or child care facility in which the school guardian is
258 appointed, or the employing security agency of a school security
259 guard, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and,
260 if applicable, the date such person separated from his or her
261 appointment as a school guardian or the last date a school
262 security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date.
263 The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any
264 person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph
265 1.d.

266 d. Each sheriff must report on a quarterly basis to the
267 Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school
268 guardian or school security guard trainings, including the dates
269 of the training, the training locations, a contact person to
270 register for the training, and the class capacity. If no
271 trainings are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to report
272 to the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Law
273 Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming
274 school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement
275 must update such list quarterly.

276 e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required
 277 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the
 278 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the
 279 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed
 280 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to
 281 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

282 f. A school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school,
 283 child care facility, or employing security agency that fails to
 284 report the information required by this subparagraph is
 285 prohibited from operating ~~may not operate~~ a school guardian
 286 program or employing school security guards in ~~for~~ the following
 287 school year~~,~~ unless the missing ~~school district, charter school,~~
 288 ~~or private school has submitted the required~~ information is
 289 provided.

290 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the
 291 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of
 292 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, ~~or~~
 293 private school, or child care facility that has not complied
 294 with the reporting requirements of this subparagraph.

295 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to
 296 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including
 297 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to
 298 uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard
 299 reported.

300 **Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 402.305,**

301 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

302 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

303 (20) SAFE SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

304 (a) A child care facility may partner with a law
305 enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign
306 one or more safe-school officers established in s. 1006.12(1)-
307 (4). The child care facility is responsible for the full cost of
308 implementing any such option, which includes all training costs
309 under the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel
310 Guardian Program under s. 30.15(1)(k).

311 (b) A child care facility that establishes a safe-school
312 officer must comply with the requirements of s. 1006.12.
313 References to a school district, district school board, or
314 district school superintendent in s. 1006.12(1)-(5) shall also
315 mean an owner of a child care facility. References to a school
316 district employee in s. 1006.12(3) shall also mean child care
317 personnel.

318 **Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section**
319 **1006.07 is amended, and paragraph (h) is added to that**
320 **subsection, to read:**

321 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
322 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall
323 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
324 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
325 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the

326 welfare of students, including:

327 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district
328 school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures
329 for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the
330 assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior
331 poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

332 (f) School safety requirements. ~~By August 1, 2024,~~ Each
333 school district and charter school governing board shall comply
334 with the following school safety requirements, which,
335 notwithstanding any other requirements under this paragraph,
336 must be enforced, at a minimum, from 30 minutes before the
337 school start time until 30 minutes after the end of the school
338 day:

339 1. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress
340 to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked
341 when students are on campus. A gate or other campus access point
342 may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during
343 normal school hours, unless:

344 a. Attended or actively staffed by a person when students
345 are on campus;

346 b. The use is in accordance with a shared use agreement
347 pursuant to s. 1013.101; ~~or~~

348 c. Another closed or locked gate or access point separates
349 the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

350 d.e. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee,

351 has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
352 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or
353 other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon
354 other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a
355 compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such
356 determination is appropriate.

357 2.a. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces
358 must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students,
359 except between class periods when students are moving between
360 classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or
361 other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for
362 any reason other than between class periods when students are
363 moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the
364 door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at
365 the door.

366 b. Instructional spaces for career and technical education
367 which are designed as open areas for which compliance with the
368 requirements of sub-subparagraph a. affects the health and
369 safety of students may be exempted from compliance with that
370 sub-subparagraph by the school safety specialist. To be exempt,
371 the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must
372 document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal
373 maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the instructional
374 space is exempt from these requirements due to negative impacts
375 to student health and safety and the presence of other safety

376 measures at the school that prevent egress from the
377 instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or
378 instructional spaces.

379 c. Common areas on a school campus, including, but not
380 limited to, cafeterias, auditoriums, and media centers, which
381 are used for instructional time or student testing must meet the
382 requirements of sub-subparagraph a. only when such areas are
383 being used for instructional time or student testing.

384 3. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points
385 that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall
386 remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress,
387 unless:

388 a. A person is actively entering or exiting the door,
389 gate, or other access point;

390 b. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by
391 school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

392 c. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee,
393 has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
394 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open
395 and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to
396 this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school.
397 There must be at least one locked barrier between classrooms and
398 instructional spaces and open school campus.

399
400 The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s.

401 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All
402 campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be
403 electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to
404 allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school
405 personnel.

406 4. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces
407 must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each
408 classroom or other instructional space where students must
409 shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified
410 of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year.
411 If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the
412 safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the
413 school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document
414 such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
415 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying
416 where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall
417 assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the
418 inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

419
420 Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must
421 report the violation to the school principal. The school
422 principal must report the violation to the school safety
423 specialist no later than the next business day after receiving
424 such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the
425 school principal or charter school administrator, the report

426 must be made directly to the district school superintendent or
 427 charter school governing board, as applicable.

428 (h) Provision of school safety protocols and policies.—
 429 Each substitute teacher must be provided all school safety
 430 protocols and policies before beginning his or her first day of
 431 substitute teaching at a school.

432 **Section 4. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1006.12,**
 433 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

434 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For
 435 the protection and safety of school personnel, property,
 436 students, and visitors, each district school board and school
 437 district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement
 438 agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more
 439 safe-school officers at each school facility within the
 440 district, including charter schools. A district school board
 441 must collaborate with charter school governing boards to
 442 facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer
 443 options available under this section. The school district may
 444 implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4)
 445 to best meet the needs of the school district and charter
 446 schools.

447 (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter
 448 school governing board may contract with a security agency as
 449 defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard
 450 an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license

451 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and
 452 contractual conditions are met:

453 (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard,
 454 for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,
 455 must:

456 1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required
 457 training conducted by a sheriff pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.

458 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
 459 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
 460 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
 461 evaluation to the sheriff's office, and school district, ~~or~~
 462 charter school governing board, or employing security agency, as
 463 applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to
 464 provide the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or~~ charter school
 465 governing board, or employing security agency with mental health
 466 and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

467 3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
 468 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.
 469 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or~~ charter
 470 school governing board, or employing security agency, as
 471 applicable.

472 4. Be approved to work as a school security guard by the
 473 sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will
 474 be assigned to a school before commencing work at any school in
 475 that county. The sheriff's approval authorizes the security

476 agency to assign the school security guard to any school in the
477 county, and the sheriff's approval is not limited to any
478 particular school.

479 5.4. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon
480 inspection, and firearm qualification conducted by a sheriff
481 pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.e. on at least an annual basis and
482 provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district,
483 ~~or~~ charter school governing board, or employing security agency,
484 as applicable.

485 (b) The contract between a security agency and a school
486 district or a charter school governing board regarding
487 requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the
488 capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the
489 requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities
490 responsible ~~for training and the responsibilities~~ for
491 maintaining records relating to training, inspection, and
492 firearm qualification.

493 (c) School security guards serving in the capacity of a
494 safe-school officer pursuant to this subsection are in support
495 of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, and
496 must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant
497 incidents on school premises.

498 (d) The Office of Safe Schools shall provide the
499 Department of Law Enforcement any information related to a
500 school security guard that the office receives pursuant to

501 subsection (5).

502 (5) NOTIFICATION.—The district school superintendent or
 503 charter school administrator, or a respective designee~~,~~ shall
 504 notify the county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools
 505 immediately after, but no later than 72 hours after:

506 (a) A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or
 507 is otherwise disciplined.

508 (b) A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in
 509 the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for
 510 training purposes.

511
 512 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,
 513 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any
 514 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school
 515 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety
 516 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the
 517 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource
 518 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school
 519 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.
 520 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

521 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.