

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Gaetz

591-02772-26

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15,  
3           F.S.; requiring sheriffs to assist public  
4           postsecondary educational institutions in implementing  
5           guardian programs under certain provisions;  
6           authorizing public postsecondary educational  
7           institutions to participate in the school guardian  
8           program; requiring public postsecondary educational  
9           institutions to provide a specified notice to the  
10          sheriff; amending s. 790.115, F.S.; creating the  
11          offense of discharging a weapon or firearm within  
12          1,000 feet of a school; providing an exception;  
13          providing that a person arrested for certain offenses  
14          must be held in custody until brought before the court  
15          for admittance to bail; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.;  
16          ranking an offense created by the act on the offense  
17          severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment  
18          Code; amending s. 943.082, F.S.; requiring that  
19          postsecondary institutions be made aware of the mobile  
20          suspicious activity reporting tool in a specified  
21          manner; requiring public postsecondary educational  
22          institutions to promote the use of such tool; amending  
23          s. 1003.25, F.S.; requiring specified educational  
24          records for certain students to be transferred to a  
25          Florida College System institution or state university  
26          under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board  
27          of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules  
28          and regulations, respectively; amending s. 1006.07,  
29          F.S.; requiring certain trainings to include specified

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30 information relating to school safety; creating s.  
31 1006.601, F.S.; defining the term "public  
32 postsecondary educational institution"; authorizing  
33 such institutions to participate in certain programs;  
34 authorizing such institutions to appoint certified  
35 school guardians; authorizing specified persons to  
36 serve as school guardians; requiring such institutions  
37 to adopt specified emergency response plans; requiring  
38 such institutions to provide specified training, post  
39 specified information, and adopt threat management  
40 processes; requiring public postsecondary educational  
41 institutions to collaborate with certain public safety  
42 agencies, and authorizing such institutions to  
43 collaborate with private sector security consulting  
44 firms, to annually conduct a security risk assessment  
45 using a specified assessment tool; authorizing public  
46 postsecondary educational institutions to contract  
47 with a private sector security consulting firm for a  
48 specified purpose; authorizing a public postsecondary  
49 educational institution to apply for grant funds for  
50 security improvements, subject to appropriation;  
51 authorizing the State Board of Education and the Board  
52 of Governors to adopt rules and regulations,  
53 respectively; reenacting s. 1006.12, F.S., relating to  
54 safe-school officers at each public school, to  
55 incorporate the amendments made by the act; reenacting  
56 ss. 402.305(19)(a), 843.08, 943.03(16), and  
57 1001.212(1), (4), and (10), F.S., relating to  
58 licensing standards and child care facilities; false

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59 personation; Department of Law Enforcement; and Office  
60 of Safe Schools, respectively, to incorporate the  
61 amendments made by the act; providing effective dates.  
62

63 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
64

65 Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section  
66 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

67 30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

68 (1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or by  
69 deputy, shall:

70 (k) Assist district school boards and charter school  
71 governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child  
72 care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options  
73 in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must also assist public postsecondary  
74 educational institutions, as described in s. 1000.04(3), in  
75 implementing a guardian program under s. 1006.601. A sheriff  
76 shall, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach  
77 Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in  
78 the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on  
79 school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons  
80 certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no  
81 authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the  
82 extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant  
83 incident.

84 1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to  
85 implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of  
86 school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s.  
87 1006.12, the sheriff in that county must establish a guardian

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88 program to provide training for school guardians or school  
89 security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school  
90 district, charter school, public postsecondary educational  
91 institution, private school, child care facility, or security  
92 agency employees, either directly or through a contract with  
93 another sheriff's office that has established a guardian  
94 program. The security agency employing a school security guard  
95 is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for  
96 a school security guard, but such charges may not exceed the  
97 actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

98 b. A public postsecondary educational institution or  
99 charter school governing board in a school district that has not  
100 voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may  
101 request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian  
102 program for the purpose of training the public postsecondary  
103 educational institution or charter school employees or school  
104 security guards consistent with the requirements of subparagraph  
105 2. If the county sheriff denies the request, the public  
106 postsecondary educational institution or charter school  
107 governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established  
108 a guardian program to provide such training. The charter school  
109 governing board must notify the superintendent and the sheriff  
110 in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its  
111 execution. The public postsecondary educational institution must  
112 notify the sheriff in the public postsecondary educational  
113 institution's county of the contract prior to its execution. The  
114 security agency employing a school security guard is responsible  
115 for all training and screening-related costs for a school  
116 security guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost

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117 incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

118 c. A private school or child care facility in a school  
119 district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a  
120 guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of  
121 the private school or child care facility establish a guardian  
122 program for the purpose of training private school employees,  
123 child care facility employees, or school security guards. If the  
124 county sheriff denies the request, the private school or child  
125 care facility may contract with a sheriff from another county  
126 who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to  
127 provide such training. The private school or child care facility  
128 must notify the sheriff in the private school's or child care  
129 facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from another  
130 county before its execution. The private school, child care  
131 facility, or security agency is responsible for all training and  
132 screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The  
133 sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid  
134 by a private school, child care facility, or security agency are  
135 not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the  
136 sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-  
137 related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

138 d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.  
139 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff  
140 providing such training shall adhere to the course of  
141 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This  
142 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing  
143 additional training. A school guardian or school security guard  
144 who has completed the training program required in sub-  
145 subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another

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146 sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph  
147 unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her  
148 appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as  
149 a school security guard in a school.

150 e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to  
151 subparagraph 2. for school district, ~~and~~ charter school, or  
152 public postsecondary educational institution employees will be  
153 reimbursed for screening-related and training-related costs and  
154 for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian  
155 who participates in the school guardian program.

156 f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-related  
157 costs for a private school or child care facility for a school  
158 guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-subparagraph e.  
159 may not be used to subsidize any costs that have been waived by  
160 the sheriff. The sheriff may not waive the training and  
161 screening-related costs required to be paid by a security agency  
162 for initial training or ongoing training of a school security  
163 guard.

164 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under the  
165 Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, who  
166 meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who is  
167 otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or  
168 school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or  
169 school security guard by the sheriff without completing the  
170 training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person  
171 certified as a school guardian or school security guard under  
172 this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-  
173 subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

174 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with

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175 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding  
176 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as  
177 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,  
178 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school  
179 security guards those persons employed by a security agency who  
180 meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

181 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are  
182 otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under  
183 chapter 790.

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

191 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the  
192 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law  
193 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least  
194 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than  
195 associated with academy training. Program participants must  
196 achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

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

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

200 (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or  
201 assailant scenarios.

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

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

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204 c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
205 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
206 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
207 evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law  
208 Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with  
209 mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this  
210 paragraph.

211 d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
212 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.  
213 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

214 e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
215 inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual  
216 basis.

217  
218 The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the  
219 training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g.  
220 shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet  
221 the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the  
222 sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and  
223 equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,  
224 inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian  
225 certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this  
226 paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3)  
227 only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district  
228 superintendent, charter school principal, public postsecondary  
229 educational institution president, private school head of  
230 school, or child care facility owner. A sheriff who conducts the  
231 training for a school security guard or waives the training  
232 requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and

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233 determines that the school security guard has met all the  
234 requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security  
235 guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this  
236 section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain  
237 documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training,  
238 certification, and qualification records for each school  
239 security guard certified by the sheriff.

240 3.a. Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or  
241 school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the  
242 certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the  
243 name, date of birth, and certification date of the school  
244 guardian or school security guard.

245 b. By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each  
246 school district, charter school, employing security agency,  
247 public postsecondary educational institution, private school,  
248 and child care facility must report in the manner prescribed to  
249 the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and  
250 appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian  
251 or employed as a school security guard. The school district,  
252 charter school, employing security agency, public postsecondary  
253 educational institution, private school, and child care facility  
254 must also report in the manner prescribed to the Department of  
255 Law Enforcement the date each school guardian or school security  
256 guard separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian  
257 or employment as a school security guard in a school.

258 c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list  
259 of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a  
260 school security guard in the state. The list must include the  
261 name and certification date of each school guardian and school

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262 security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school  
263 guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the  
264 name of the school district, charter school, public  
265 postsecondary educational institution, private school, or child  
266 care facility in which the school guardian is appointed, or the  
267 employing security agency of a school security guard, any  
268 information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if  
269 applicable, the date such person separated from his or her  
270 appointment as a school guardian or the last date a school  
271 security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date.  
272 The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any  
273 person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph  
274 1.d.

275 d. Each sheriff shall report on a quarterly basis to the  
276 Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school  
277 guardian trainings, to include guardian trainings for school  
278 security guards, including the dates of the training, the  
279 training locations, a contact person to register for the  
280 training, and the class capacity. If no trainings are scheduled,  
281 the sheriff is not required to report to the Department of Law  
282 Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on  
283 its website a list of the upcoming school guardian trainings.  
284 The Department of Law Enforcement shall update such list  
285 quarterly.

286 e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required  
287 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the  
288 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the  
289 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed  
290 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to

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291 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

292 f. A school district, charter school, public postsecondary  
293 educational institution, private school, child care facility, or  
294 employing security agency that fails to report the information  
295 required by this subparagraph is prohibited from operating a  
296 school guardian program or employing school security guards in  
297 the following school year unless the missing information is  
298 provided.

299 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the  
300 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of  
301 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school,  
302 public postsecondary educational institution, private school, or  
303 child care facility that has not complied with the reporting  
304 requirements of this subparagraph.

305 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to  
306 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including  
307 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to  
308 uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard  
309 reported.

310 Section 2. Effective October 1, 2026, paragraph (d) of  
311 subsection (2) of section 790.115, Florida Statutes, is amended,  
312 and subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

313 790.115 Possessing or discharging weapons or firearms at a  
314 school-sponsored event or on school property prohibited;  
315 penalties; exceptions.—

316 (2)

317 (d) A person commits a felony of the second degree,  
318 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084,  
319 if he or she: ~~who~~

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320 1. Discharges any weapon or firearm while in violation of  
 321 paragraph (a), unless discharged for lawful defense of himself  
 322 or herself or another or for a lawful purpose; or

323 2. Discharges any weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a  
 324 school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned  
 325 school activity, unless discharged for lawful defense of himself  
 326 or herself or another or for a lawful purpose. This subparagraph  
 327 does not apply to the discharge of a weapon or firearm on  
 328 private real property within 1,000 feet of a school by the owner  
 329 of such property or by a person whose presence on such property  
 330 has been authorized, licensed, or invited by the owner, ~~commits~~  
 331 a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
 332 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

333 (4) A person arrested for a violation of paragraph (2) (d)  
 334 must be held in custody until brought before the court for  
 335 admittance to bail in accordance with chapter 903.

336 Section 3. Effective October 1, 2026, paragraph (f) of  
 337 subsection (3) of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 338 to read:

339 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking  
 340 chart.—

341 (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

342 (f) LEVEL 6

343

| Florida Statute | Felony Degree | Description   |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 316.027(2)(b)   | 2nd           | Leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily |

344

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injury.

345

316.193 (2) (b) 3rd Felony DUI, 4th or subsequent conviction.

346

316.1935 (4) (a) 2nd Aggravated fleeing or eluding.

347

327.30 (5) (a) 3. 2nd Vessel accidents involving serious bodily injury; leaving scene.

348

400.9935 (4) (c) 2nd Operating a clinic, or offering services requiring licensure, without a license.

349

499.0051 (2) 2nd Knowing forgery of transaction history, transaction information, or transaction statement.

350

499.0051 (3) 2nd Knowing purchase or receipt of prescription drug from unauthorized person.

351

499.0051 (4) 2nd Knowing sale or transfer of prescription drug to unauthorized person.

352

775.0875 (1) 3rd Taking firearm from law

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enforcement officer.

353

784.021 (1) (a) 3rd Aggravated assault; deadly  
 weapon without intent to kill.

354

784.021 (1) (b) 3rd Aggravated assault; intent to  
 commit felony.

355

784.041 3rd Felony battery; domestic  
 battery by strangulation.

356

784.048 (3) 3rd Aggravated stalking; credible  
 threat.

357

784.048 (5) 3rd Aggravated stalking of person  
 under 16.

358

784.07 (2) (c) 2nd Aggravated assault on law  
 enforcement officer.

359

784.074 (1) (b) 2nd Aggravated assault on sexually  
 violent predators facility  
 staff.

360

784.08 (2) (b) 2nd Aggravated assault on a person  
 65 years of age or older.

361

784.081 (2) 2nd Aggravated assault on specified  
 official or employee.

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362

784.082 (2) 2nd Aggravated assault by detained person on visitor or other detainee.

363

784.083 (2) 2nd Aggravated assault on code inspector.

364

787.02 (2) 3rd False imprisonment; restraining with purpose other than those in s. 787.01.

365

787.025 (2) (a) 3rd Luring or enticing a child.

366

790.115 (2) (d) 2nd Discharging firearm or weapon on school property or within 1,000 feet of a school.

367

790.161 (2) 2nd Make, possess, or throw destructive device with intent to do bodily harm or damage property.

368

790.164 (1) 2nd False report concerning bomb, explosive, weapon of mass destruction, act of arson or violence to state property, or use of firearms in violent manner.



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minor victims; 2nd or  
subsequent offense.

377

812.014 (2) (b) 1.        2nd    Property stolen \$20,000 or  
more, but less than \$100,000,  
grand theft in 2nd degree.

378

812.014 (2) (c) 5.       3rd    Grand theft; third degree;  
firearm.

379

812.014 (6)                2nd    Theft; property stolen \$3,000  
or more; coordination of  
others.

380

812.015 (9) (a)           2nd    Retail theft; property stolen  
\$750 or more; second or  
subsequent conviction.

381

812.015 (9) (b)           2nd    Retail theft; aggregated  
property stolen within 120 days  
is \$3,000 or more; coordination  
of others.

382

812.015 (9) (d)           2nd    Retail theft; multiple thefts  
within specified period.

383

812.015 (9) (e)           2nd    Retail theft; committed with  
specified number of other  
persons and use of social media

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platform.

384

812.13(2)(c) 2nd Robbery, no firearm or other  
weapon (strong-arm robbery).

385

817.4821(5) 2nd Possess cloning paraphernalia  
with intent to create cloned  
cellular telephones.

386

817.49(2)(b)2. 2nd Willful making of a false  
report of a crime resulting in  
death.

387

817.505(4)(b) 2nd Patient brokering; 10 or more  
patients.

388

817.5695(3)(b) 2nd Exploitation of person 65 years  
of age or older, value \$10,000  
or more, but less than \$50,000.

389

825.102(1) 3rd Abuse of an elderly person or  
disabled adult.

390

825.102(3)(c) 3rd Neglect of an elderly person or  
disabled adult.

391

825.1025(3) 3rd Lewd or lascivious molestation  
of an elderly person or  
disabled adult.

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392

825.103(3)(c) 3rd Exploiting an elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at less than \$10,000.

393

827.03(2)(c) 3rd Abuse of a child.

394

827.03(2)(d) 3rd Neglect of a child.

395

827.071(5) 3rd Possess, control, or intentionally view any photographic material, motion picture, etc., which includes child pornography.

396

828.126(3) 3rd Sexual activities involving animals.

397

836.05 2nd Threats; extortion.

398

836.10 2nd Written or electronic threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.

399

843.12 3rd Aids or assists person to escape.

400

847.011 3rd Distributing, offering to

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distribute, or possessing with  
intent to distribute obscene  
materials depicting minors.

401

847.012                      3rd      Knowingly using a minor in the  
production of materials harmful  
to minors.

402

847.0135(2)                3rd      Facilitates sexual conduct of  
or with a minor or the visual  
depiction of such conduct.

403

893.131                      2nd      Distribution of controlled  
substances resulting in  
overdose or serious bodily  
injury.

404

914.23                        2nd      Retaliation against a witness,  
victim, or informant, with  
bodily injury.

405

918.13(2)(b)               2nd      Tampering with or fabricating  
physical evidence relating to a  
capital felony.

406

944.35(3)(a)2.            3rd      Committing malicious battery  
upon or inflicting cruel or  
inhuman treatment on an inmate  
or offender on community

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supervision, resulting in great  
bodily harm.

407

944.40                      2nd      Escapes.

408

944.46                      3rd      Harboring, concealing, aiding  
escaped prisoners.

409

944.47(1)(a)5.            2nd      Introduction of contraband  
(firearm, weapon, or explosive)  
into correctional facility.

410

951.22(1)(i)              3rd      Firearm or weapon introduced  
into county detention facility.

411

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
943.082, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is  
added to that subsection, to read:

943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.—

(4)(a) Law enforcement dispatch centers, school districts,  
schools, postsecondary institutions, and other entities  
identified by the department must be made aware of the mobile  
suspicious activity reporting tool.

(c) Each public postsecondary educational institution, as  
defined in s. 1000.04(3), shall promote the use of the mobile  
suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on the  
institution website, by installing it on all mobile devices  
issued by the institution, and by bookmarking the website on all  
computer devices maintained by the institution.

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426 Section 5. Subsection (4) is added to section 1003.25,  
427 Florida Statutes, and subsection (2) of that section is  
428 republished, to read:

429 1003.25 Procedures for maintenance and transfer of student  
430 records.—

431 (2) The procedure for transferring and maintaining records  
432 of students who transfer from school to school is prescribed by  
433 rules of the State Board of Education. The transfer of records  
434 must occur within 5 school days. The records must include, if  
435 applicable:

436 (a) Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior  
437 patterns, including any threat assessment report, all  
438 corresponding documentation, and any other information required  
439 by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument  
440 pursuant to s. 1001.212(11) which contains the evaluation,  
441 intervention, and management of the threat assessment  
442 evaluations and intervention services.

443 (b) Psychological evaluations, including therapeutic  
444 treatment plans and therapy or progress notes created or  
445 maintained by school district or charter school staff, as  
446 appropriate.

447 (4) When the education records of a student contain the  
448 documents described in subsection (2) and the student enrolls in  
449 a Florida College System institution or state university, such  
450 records must be transferred to his or her institution or  
451 university of enrollment. The State Board of Education and the  
452 Board of Governors shall adopt rules and regulations,  
453 respectively, to establish the procedures for the transfer of a  
454 student's threat assessment report pursuant to this subsection.

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455 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
456 1006.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

457 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
458 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
459 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
460 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
461 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
462 welfare of students, including:

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

468 (a) *School safety specialist*.—Each district school  
469 superintendent shall designate a school safety specialist for  
470 the district. The school safety specialist must be a school  
471 administrator employed by the school district or a law  
472 enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office located in  
473 the school district. Any school safety specialist designated  
474 from the sheriff's office must first be authorized and approved  
475 by the sheriff employing the law enforcement officer. Any school  
476 safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office remains  
477 the employee of the office for purposes of compensation,  
478 insurance, workers' compensation, and other benefits authorized  
479 by law for a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's  
480 office. The sheriff and the school superintendent may determine  
481 by agreement the reimbursement for such costs, or may share the  
482 costs, associated with employment of the law enforcement officer  
483 as a school safety specialist. The school safety specialist must

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484 earn a certificate of completion of the school safety specialist  
485 training provided by the Office of Safe Schools within 1 year  
486 after appointment and is responsible for the supervision and  
487 oversight for all school safety and security personnel,  
488 policies, and procedures in the school district. The school  
489 safety specialist, or his or her designee, shall:

490 1. In conjunction with the district school superintendent,  
491 annually review school district policies and procedures for  
492 compliance with state law and rules, including the district's  
493 timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety  
494 incident reports to the department pursuant to s. 1001.212(8).  
495 At least quarterly, the school safety specialist must report to  
496 the district school superintendent and the district school board  
497 any noncompliance by the school district with laws or rules  
498 regarding school safety.

499 2. Provide the necessary training and resources to students  
500 and school district staff in matters relating to youth mental  
501 health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures, including  
502 active shooter training; and school safety and security. Such  
503 training for classroom teachers and other members of  
504 instructional staff must explain the purpose, importance, and  
505 proper execution of school safety protocols and emergency  
506 procedures.

507 3. Serve as the school district liaison with local public  
508 safety agencies and national, state, and community agencies and  
509 organizations in matters of school safety and security.

510 4. In collaboration with the appropriate public safety  
511 agencies, as that term is defined in s. 365.171, by October 1 of  
512 each year, conduct a school security risk assessment at each

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513 public school using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool  
514 developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s.  
515 1006.1493. Based on the assessment findings, the district's  
516 school safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the  
517 district school superintendent and the district school board  
518 which identify strategies and activities that the district  
519 school board should implement in order to address the findings  
520 and improve school safety and security. Each district school  
521 board must receive such findings and the school safety  
522 specialist's recommendations at a publicly noticed district  
523 school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to  
524 hear the district school board members discuss and take action  
525 on the findings and recommendations. Each school safety  
526 specialist, through the district school superintendent, shall  
527 report such findings and school board action to the Office of  
528 Safe Schools within 30 days after the district school board  
529 meeting.

530 5. Conduct annual unannounced inspections, using the form  
531 adopted by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s.  
532 1001.212(13), of all public schools, including charter schools,  
533 while school is in session and investigate reports of  
534 noncompliance with school safety requirements.

535 6. Report violations of paragraph (f) by administrative  
536 personnel and instructional personnel to the district school  
537 superintendent or charter school administrator, as applicable.

538 Section 7. Section 1006.601, Florida Statutes, is created  
539 to read:

540 1006.601 Student safety.-

541 (1) DEFINITION.-As used in this section, the term "public

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542 postsecondary educational institution” has the same meaning as  
543 in s. 1000.04(3).

544 (2) SCHOOL GUARDIANS.—

545 (a) Public postsecondary educational institutions are  
546 authorized to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis,  
547 and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program and may appoint  
548 certified school guardians pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k).

549 (b) An employee or faculty member of a public postsecondary  
550 educational institution may serve as a school guardian, in  
551 support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s.  
552 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the requirements under  
553 s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a sheriff.

554 (3) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—

555 (a) Response plans.—Each public postsecondary educational  
556 institution shall:

557 1. Adopt an active assailant response plan, including  
558 methods for issuing campus-wide alerts, and annually certify  
559 that all faculty, staff, and students have completed active  
560 assailant preparedness training. The plan must clearly identify  
561 who may issue an emergency alert.

562 2. Adopt, in cooperation with local law enforcement  
563 agencies and local government, a family reunification plan to  
564 reunite students and employees with their families in the event  
565 that an institution is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a  
566 natural or manmade disaster. This reunification plan must be  
567 reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

568 (b) Student mental health.—Each public postsecondary  
569 educational institution shall:

570 1. Train faculty to detect and respond to mental health

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571 issues as well as connect students who may experience behavioral  
572 health issues with appropriate services, both on campus and in  
573 the community, including crisis intervention.

574 2. Post on its website and in conspicuous locations at each  
575 institution a mental health awareness and suicide prevention  
576 sign that identifies ways a person can access help and services.  
577 Physical signs must be at least 11 inches by 15 inches in size  
578 and must be printed in an easily legible font and in at least  
579 32-point type.

580 3. Establish threat management teams whose duties include  
581 the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention  
582 with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of  
583 the institution, institution staff, or students. The threat  
584 management team must use the statewide behavioral threat  
585 management operational process and Florida-specific behavioral  
586 threat assessment instrument developed by the Office of Safe  
587 Schools pursuant to s. 1001.212(11) or another comparable tool  
588 deemed appropriate for postsecondary institutions by the State  
589 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

590  
591 The Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the State  
592 University System shall provide guidance on when and how  
593 administrators, mental health providers, and other appropriate  
594 personnel are legally entitled to share and receive information  
595 about individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others,  
596 including, but not limited to, the transmission of education  
597 records pursuant to s. 1003.25(4).

598 (c) Security risk assessment.—Each public postsecondary  
599 educational institution shall collaborate with appropriate

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600 public safety agencies as defined in s. 365.171(3)(d), and may  
601 collaborate with a private sector security consulting firm, to  
602 annually conduct a security risk assessment at each campus using  
603 the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed by the Office  
604 of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1006.1493 or another comparable  
605 tool deemed appropriate for postsecondary educational  
606 institutions by the State Board of Education and the Board of  
607 Governors. Each public postsecondary educational institution may  
608 contract with a private sector security consulting firm that  
609 specializes in the facilitation of security risk assessments and  
610 has experience in conducting security risk assessments of public  
611 facilities to develop, update, and implement a risk assessment  
612 tool. Subject to an appropriation, the institution may apply for  
613 grant funds for security improvements to its campus based on  
614 findings in the security risk assessment and other services  
615 deemed appropriate.

616 (4) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The State Board of Education and  
617 the Board of Governors may adopt rules and regulations,  
618 respectively, to implement this section.

619 Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments  
620 made by this act in references thereto, paragraph (a) of  
621 subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), and subsection  
622 (7) of section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

623 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the  
624 protection and safety of school personnel, property, students,  
625 and visitors, each district school board and school district  
626 superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or  
627 security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school  
628 officers at each school facility within the district, including

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629 charter schools. A district school board must collaborate with  
630 charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school  
631 access to all safe-school officer options available under this  
632 section. The school district may implement any combination of  
633 the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet the needs of the  
634 school district and charter schools.

635 (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

636 (a) At the school district's or the charter school  
637 governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s.  
638 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may  
639 participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach  
640 Scott Beigel Guardian Program to meet the requirement of  
641 establishing a safe-school officer. The following individuals  
642 may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned  
643 activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory  
644 completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and  
645 certification by a sheriff:

646 1. A school district employee or personnel, as defined  
647 under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided  
648 under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school  
649 guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or

650 2. An employee of a school district or a charter school who  
651 is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school  
652 guardian.

653 (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter  
654 school governing board may contract with a security agency as  
655 defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard  
656 an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license  
657 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and

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658 contractual conditions are met:

659 (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard,  
660 for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,  
661 must:

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

664 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a  
665 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the  
666 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the  
667 evaluation to the sheriff's office and school district, charter  
668 school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
669 applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to  
670 provide the sheriff's office, school district, charter school  
671 governing board, or employing security agency with mental health  
672 and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

673 3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent  
674 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.  
675 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, charter  
676 school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
677 applicable.

678 4. Be approved to work as a school security guard by the  
679 sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will  
680 be assigned to a school before commencing work at any school in  
681 that county. The sheriff's approval authorizes the security  
682 agency to assign the school security guard to any school in the  
683 county, and the sheriff's approval is not limited to any  
684 particular school.

685 5. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon  
686 inspection, and firearm qualification conducted by a sheriff

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687 pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.e. on at least an annual basis and  
688 provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district,  
689 charter school governing board, or employing security agency, as  
690 applicable.

691 (7) LIMITATIONS.—An individual must satisfy the background  
692 screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements  
693 and be approved by the sheriff before participating in any  
694 training required by s. 30.15(1)(k), which may be conducted only  
695 by a sheriff.

696

697 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,  
698 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any  
699 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school  
700 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety  
701 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the  
702 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource  
703 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school  
704 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.  
705 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

706 Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
707 made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a  
708 reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (19) of section  
709 402.305, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

710 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

711 (19) SAFE-SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

712 (a) A child care facility may partner with a law  
713 enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign  
714 one or more safe-school officers established in s. 1006.12(1)-  
715 (4). The child care facility is responsible for the full cost of

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716 implementing any such option, which includes all training costs  
717 under the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel  
718 Guardian Program under s. 30.15(1)(k).

719 Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
720 made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a  
721 reference thereto, section 843.08, Florida Statutes, is  
722 reenacted to read:

723 843.08 False personation.—A person who falsely assumes or  
724 pretends to be a firefighter, a sheriff, an officer of the  
725 Florida Highway Patrol, an officer of the Fish and Wildlife  
726 Conservation Commission, an officer of the Department of  
727 Environmental Protection, an officer of the Department of  
728 Financial Services, any personnel or representative of the  
729 Division of Criminal Investigations, an officer of the  
730 Department of Corrections, a correctional probation officer, a  
731 deputy sheriff, a state attorney or an assistant state attorney,  
732 a statewide prosecutor or an assistant statewide prosecutor, a  
733 state attorney investigator, a coroner, a police officer, a  
734 lottery special agent or lottery investigator, a beverage  
735 enforcement agent, a school guardian as described in s.  
736 30.15(1)(k), a security officer licensed under chapter 493, any  
737 member of the Florida Commission on Offender Review or any  
738 administrative aide or supervisor employed by the commission,  
739 any personnel or representative of the Department of Law  
740 Enforcement, or a federal law enforcement officer as defined in  
741 s. 901.1505, and takes upon himself or herself to act as such,  
742 or to require any other person to aid or assist him or her in a  
743 matter pertaining to the duty of any such officer, commits a  
744 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.

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745 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who  
746 falsely personates any such officer during the course of the  
747 commission of a felony commits a felony of the second degree,  
748 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.  
749 If the commission of the felony results in the death or personal  
750 injury of another human being, the person commits a felony of  
751 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
752 775.083, or s. 775.084. In determining whether a defendant has  
753 violated this section, the court or jury may consider any  
754 relevant evidence, including, but not limited to, whether the  
755 defendant used lights in violation of s. 316.2397 or s. 843.081.

756 Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
757 made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a  
758 reference thereto, subsection (16) of section 943.03, Florida  
759 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

760 943.03 Department of Law Enforcement.—

761 (16) Upon request, the department shall consult with  
762 sheriffs to provide input regarding programmatic guiding  
763 principles, practices, and resources in order to assist in the  
764 development and implementation of the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron  
765 Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program established  
766 pursuant to s. 30.15. Such input and guidance may include, but  
767 need not be limited to, standards, curriculum, instructional  
768 strategies, evaluation, certification, records retention,  
769 equipment, and other resource needs.

770 Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments  
771 made by this act to sections 943.082 and 1006.07, Florida  
772 Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (1), (4), and (10)  
773 of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

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774 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the  
775 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office  
776 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The  
777 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,  
778 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters  
779 regarding school safety and security, including prevention  
780 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness  
781 planning. The office shall:

782 (1) Establish and update as necessary a school security  
783 risk assessment tool for use by school districts pursuant to s.  
784 1006.07(6). The office shall make the security risk assessment  
785 tool available for use by charter schools. The office shall  
786 provide annual training to appropriate school district and  
787 charter school personnel on the proper assessment of physical  
788 site security and completion of the school security risk  
789 assessment tool.

790 (4) Develop and implement a School Safety Specialist  
791 Training Program for school safety specialists appointed  
792 pursuant to s. 1006.07(6). The office shall develop the training  
793 program which shall be based on national and state best  
794 practices on school safety and security and must include active  
795 shooter training. The office shall develop training modules in  
796 traditional or online formats. A school safety specialist  
797 certificate of completion shall be awarded to a school safety  
798 specialist who satisfactorily completes the training required by  
799 rules of the office.

800 (10) Disseminate, in consultation with the Department of  
801 Law Enforcement, to participating schools awareness and  
802 education materials on the proper use of the School Safety

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803 Awareness Program developed pursuant to s. 943.082, including  
804 the consequences of knowingly submitting false information.

805 Section 13. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
806 act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.