

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Criminal Justice; and
Senator Gaetz

576-03169-26

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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
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344

316.027(2) (b)	2nd	Leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily
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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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369
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- 790.19 2nd Shooting or throwing deadly missiles into dwellings, vessels, or vehicles.
- 794.011 (8) (a) 3rd Solicitation of minor to participate in sexual activity by custodial adult.
- 794.05 (1) 2nd Unlawful sexual activity with specified minor.
- 800.04 (5) (d) 3rd Lewd or lascivious molestation; victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age; offender less than 18 years.
- 800.04 (6) (b) 2nd Lewd or lascivious conduct; offender 18 years of age or older.
- 806.031 (2) 2nd Arson resulting in great bodily harm to firefighter or any other person.
- 810.02 (3) (c) 2nd Burglary of occupied structure; unarmed; no assault or battery.
- 810.145 (8) (b) 2nd Digital voyeurism; certain

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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 a faculty member, who is not a student,
550 of a public postsecondary educational institution may serve as a
551 school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for
552 purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the
553 requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a
554 sheriff.

555 (3) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—

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

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

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

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

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571 1. Train faculty to detect and respond to mental health
572 issues as well as connect students who may experience behavioral
573 health issues with appropriate services, both on campus and in
574 the community, including crisis intervention.

575 2. Post on its website and in conspicuous locations at each
576 institution a mental health awareness and suicide prevention
577 sign that identifies ways a person can access help and services.
578 Physical signs must be at least 11 inches by 15 inches in size
579 and must be printed in an easily legible font and in at least
580 32-point type.

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

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

599 (c) Security risk assessment.—Each public postsecondary

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

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

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

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

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

636 (3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

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

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

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

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

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658 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and
659 contractual conditions are met:

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

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

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

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

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

686 5. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon

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

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

697
698 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,
699 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any
700 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school
701 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety
702 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the
703 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource
704 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school
705 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.
706 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

707 Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
708 made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a
709 reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (19) of section
710 402.305, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

711 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

712 (19) SAFE-SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

713 (a) A child care facility may partner with a law
714 enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign
715 one or more safe-school officers established in s. 1006.12(1)–

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716 (4). The child care facility is responsible for the full cost of
717 implementing any such option, which includes all training costs
718 under the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel
719 Guardian Program under s. 30.15(1)(k).

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

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

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

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

761 943.03 Department of Law Enforcement.—

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

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

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774 of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

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

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

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

801 (10) Disseminate, in consultation with the Department of
802 Law Enforcement, to participating schools awareness and

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803 education materials on the proper use of the School Safety
804 Awareness Program developed pursuant to s. 943.082, including
805 the consequences of knowingly submitting false information.

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