

House Bill 1055

By: Representatives Alexander of the 66th, Clark of the 101st, Abrams of the 89th, Kaiser of the 59th, Maxwell of the 17th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 provide requirements for safety plans in early care and education programs; to provide a
3 short title; to revise the requirements for school safety plans at public elementary and
4 secondary schools; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Child Safety and Emergency Preparedness
9 Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
12 Article 1 of Chapter 1A, relating to general provisions pertaining to early care and learning,
13 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "20-1A-19.

15 (a) By January 1, 2015, early care and education programs shall prepare a safety plan to
16 provide a safe care and learning environment for Georgia's children by addressing
17 preparedness for emergencies, including but not limited to preparedness for fire, floods,
18 tornados, snow and ice storms, earthquakes, chemical spills, and acts of violence. Such
19 plans shall be prepared in consultation with parents and legal guardians of children enrolled
20 in such early care and education programs and teachers and staff at such early care and
21 education programs. Such plan may be prepared in consultation with community leaders
22 and local law enforcement, fire service, public safety, and emergency management
23 agencies. Such plans shall be submitted to the local emergency management agency. The
24 requirements for such plans as provided for by this Code section shall be evaluated as a
25 part of any licensing or regulatory reviews conducted by the department.

26 (b) The safety plan provided for by subsection (a) of this Code section shall include:

27 (1) Procedures for personnel to notify parents and legal guardians in cases of emergency;

28 (2) The development of designated relocation sites and evacuation routes to such sites;

29 (3) Reunification plans for children with parents and legal guardians in cases where such
30 children require sheltering in place or relocation in cases of emergency; and

31 (4) Written individualized plans for accommodating special needs of early care and
32 education program children in cases of emergency.

33 (c) The safety plan provided for by subsection (a) of this Code section shall be reviewed
34 and, if necessary, updated monthly by early child care and education programs. Early child
35 care and education programs shall maintain documentation that the emergency plan is
36 reviewed monthly.

37 (d) Early care and education programs shall train teachers, staff, and other personnel on
38 the plan prepared as provided for by this Code section at least once each calendar year.

39 (e) Early care and education programs shall implement the emergency procedures
40 provided for in safety plans prepared as provided for by this Code section through practice
41 drills. Early care and education programs shall maintain documentation of such drills for
42 one year after the completion of the drill. Such drills shall be as provided for by local and
43 state law and shall also include:

44 (1) The conducting of at least one fire drill monthly where fire drills each month shall
45 be alternated to cover each shift and time of day that children are present at the location
46 of the early care and education program, including extended care hours; and

47 (2) The conducting of at least one drill other than a fire drill every six months.

48 All drills required under this subsection shall be conducted in such a way as to simulate,
49 as closely as is practical, conditions of a real emergency with alarms to be utilized and
50 evacuation plans to be practiced.

51 (f)(1) Emergency telephone numbers for local and state emergency entities shall be
52 posted immediately next to all land line telephones located within early care and
53 education programs and be readily available to all staff of early care and education
54 programs. Such local and state emergency entities who shall have telephone numbers
55 posted shall include the:

56 (A) Local fire department;

57 (B) Local police and sheriff's departments;

58 (C) Nearest hospital emergency room;

59 (D) Abuse hotline of the Department of Human Services;

60 (E) Local emergency management agency;

61 (F) Local ambulance or rescue squad;

62 (G) Poison control center; and

63 (H) Child care complaint hotline of the Department of Human Services.

64 (2) If a generic emergency number, including but not limited to 9-1-1, is operable for the
 65 location of the early care and education program, then such number shall be posted
 66 immediately next to all land line telephones located within early care and education
 67 programs.

68 (g) All contact information for parents and legal guardians of children enrolled in an early
 69 care and education program shall be readily available to all staff of such early care and
 70 education program."

71 **SECTION 3.**

72 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-1185, relating to school safety
 73 plans, as follows:

74 "20-2-1185.

75 (a) Every public school shall prepare a school safety plan to help curb the growing
 76 incidence of violence in schools, to respond effectively to such incidents, and to provide
 77 a safe learning environment for Georgia's children, teachers, and other school personnel.
 78 Such plan shall also address preparedness for tornados, snow and ice storms, earthquakes,
 79 floods, and other natural disasters, fires, hazardous materials or radiological accidents, acts
 80 of violence, and acts of terrorism. School safety plans of public schools shall be prepared
 81 with input from students enrolled in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students,
 82 teachers in that school, community leaders, other school employees and school district
 83 employees, and local law enforcement, fire service, public safety, and emergency
 84 management agencies. School safety plans of private schools may be prepared with input
 85 from students enrolled in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers
 86 in that school, other school employees, and local law enforcement, fire service, public
 87 safety, and emergency management agencies. Such plans shall be reviewed and, if
 88 necessary, updated annually. Such plans of public schools shall be submitted to the local
 89 emergency management agency.

90 (b) A public school may request funding assistance from the state for the installation of
 91 safety equipment including, but not limited to, video surveillance cameras, metal detectors,
 92 and other similar security devices. Funding may be provided to a public school in
 93 accordance with a school safety plan prepared by the school and approved by the local
 94 board of education, the Department of Education, and the Georgia Emergency Management
 95 Agency.

96 (c) School safety plans prepared by public schools shall address security issues in school
 97 safety zones as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 16-11-127.1.
 98 School safety plans should also address security issues involving the transportation of

99 pupils to and from school and school functions when such transportation is furnished by
100 the school or school system and school functions held during noninstructional hours.

101 (c.1) By January 1, 2015, school safety plans prepared by public schools shall address:

102 (1) Evacuating and safely moving and transporting students to an alternate site. Such an
103 alternate site shall be at a location as centralized to the public school as possible and
104 sufficiently large enough to house the enrollment of such public school in instances that
105 such alternate site becomes the location for sheltering students;

106 (2) The training of staff on evacuation routes and procedures, and the responsibilities of
107 staff and students during an evacuation;

108 (3) Procedures for notifying parents and legal guardians of students in cases of
109 emergency;

110 (4) Reunification of students with parents and legal guardians in cases where such
111 students require sheltering in place or relocation in cases of emergency;

112 (5) Maintaining a listing of telephone numbers and next of kin for each student obtained
113 from parents and legal guardians of the student for use in cases of emergency where
114 contact cannot be made with the parent or legal guardian; and

115 (6) Students and staff with disabilities who may require special access and needs.

116 (d) The Georgia Emergency Management Agency shall provide training and technical
117 assistance to public school systems, and may provide this same training and technical
118 assistance to private school systems, and independent private schools throughout this state
119 in the area of emergency management and safe school operations. This training and
120 technical assistance shall include, but not be limited to, crisis response team development,
121 site surveys and safety audits, crisis management planning, exercise design, safe school
122 planning, emergency operations planning, search and seizure, bomb threat management,
123 and model school safety plans.

124 (e) On January 15 of each year the director of emergency management shall make an
125 annual report to the General Assembly on school safety plans and the overall preparedness
126 of schools in Georgia for emergencies as provided for by this Code section. Such report
127 shall evaluate the preparedness of schools in Georgia as informed by the presidential policy
128 directive, PPD-8, on national preparedness as signed by the president on March 30, 2011,
129 and the Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans as issued
130 by the United States Department of Education in June, 2013.

131 **SECTION 4.**

132 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.